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OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Seroprevalence and Risk Factors of *Toxoplasma gondii* Infection in Sheep in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Southwest Iran

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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Contents

1 **Original submission** Referee 1, Referee 2, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 2

2 **Revision 1** Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 3

Authors' reply to reviewers 4

Reviewer and editor comments 6

1 Original submission

4 comments · 3 Apr 2024 – 11 Apr 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 3 Apr 2024

In this manuscript entitled 'The seroprevalence and risk factors of Toxoplasma gondii infection in sheep of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Southwest Iran', the authors determined the presence of antibodies against T. gondii in sheep of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province.
The manuscript is interesting and easy to follow. I have some minor comments:
- There are some grammatical errors and spelling mistakes. English editing by native speakers is necessary. For example, in lines 26 and 28, the period must be placed immediately after the reference.
- Line 26: add the abbreviation of Toxoplasma gondii in parentheses.
- The names of parasites must be written in italics (line 36). Please check the whole MS again!
- Figure 1 is not clear. Please provide clearer images.

Referee 2 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 10 Apr 2024

The abstract needs to be more complete. The method used to determine seroprevalence in this manuscript needs to be added to the abstract.
In lines 19-20, "On 25.7% of sheep farms, cats may be seen even in the feed store". What do the authors mean by "may be"?
Was sampling carried out in all parts of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province or not?
The sampling method needs to be added to the sampling section.
In "2.3. Risk factors": The environmental conditions (access of cats to feeding facilities, access of cats to water supplies and season, and water sources) need to be explained in more detail. Also, add a reference for this part.
For environmental and biological risk factors, please specify the exact risk factors that the authors investigated in this research.

The "2.2. Determination of antibodies against T. gondii" section needs a reference. In this part, please explain which kind of antigen the authors used.
The procedure for the Modified Agglutination Test needs to be added to the materials and methods.
Are there any positive and negative controls in this research?

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 11 Apr 2024

This article needs major revision.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 11 Apr 2024

This article needs major revision.

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Editor in chief

We would like to thank the reviewers for their detailed feedback to improve our submission. We are submitting a revised version of our manuscript entitled "**The seroprevalence and risk factors of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in sheep of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Southwest Iran**". As a result, the manuscript has undergone a revision with some details indicated below in our response to individual comments.

All comments applied to the paper with descriptions for some of them as following:

Reviewer 1:

In this manuscript entitled 'The seroprevalence and risk factors of Toxoplasma gondii infection in sheep of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Southwest Iran', authors Determinated of antibodies against T. gondii in sheep of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province.

The manuscript is interesting and easy to follow. I have some minor comments:

- There are some grammatical errors spelling mistakes. English editing is necessary by native speakers. For example: line 26 and 28 the point must be placed immediately after the reference.

Response: Was corrected throughout manuscript.

- Line 26, add the abbreviation of Toxoplasma gondii in parentheses

Response: Was done.

- The name of parasites must be written in italic form (line 36). Please check whole MS again!

Response: Was corrected throughout manuscript.

- Figure 1 does not clear. Please provide more clear images.

Response: Was replace with high resolution figure.

Reviewer 2:

The abstract needs to more completed. The method of seroprevalence that used in this manuscript needs to add in abstract.

Response: Was added (Line 13-14).

In lines 19-20 “On 25.7% of sheep farms, cats may be seen even in the feed store”. What the authors mean of “may be”.

Response: Was removed.

The sampling carried out from all parts of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province or no?

Response: Yes.

The method of sampling needs to added to the sampling.

Response: Was added (Lines 56-62).

In “2.3. Risk factors”: The environmental conditions (access of cats to feeding facilities, access of cats to water supplies and season, and water sources), this part needs to more explain. Also add reference for this part.

Response: Was added (Lines 72-76).

For Environmental and biological risk factors, please add what are the exact risk factors that the authors investigated in this research.

Response: Was added (Lines 72-76).

The “2.2. Determination of antibodies against T. gondii” need add reference. In this part, please explain the authors used which kind of antigen?

Response: Was added.

The procedure of Modified Agglutination Test needs to add to the materials and methods.

Response: Was added (Lines 63-71).

Is there any positive control and negative control in this research?

Response: Was added.

2 Revision 1

2 comments · 19 May 2024 – 19 May 2024

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 19 May 2024

This article is accepted.

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 19 May 2024

This article is accepted.