

Mercury content in the gonads of dogs in Warsaw

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Summary

The study aimed to measure the mercury levels in the gonads of dogs in Warsaw using atomic absorption spectrometry (ASA). The average mercury content in the ovaries of females was $0.0007 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ wet weight, while the level in the testes was $0.0002 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$. Statistical analysis revealed significant differences in mercury levels depending on the sex, age, and body weight of the dogs. Gonads taken from animals weighing more than 20 kg had significantly higher mean mercury content than in other dogs. It was also confirmed that the mercury content in the gonads increased with the age of the animals.

KEY WORDS: age, dogs, mercury, ovaries, sex, testes