

# SEROLOGICAL SCREENING IN THE DETECTION OF SMALL RUMINANT LENTIVIRUS INFECTION IN PORTUGAL: ITS IMPORTANCE

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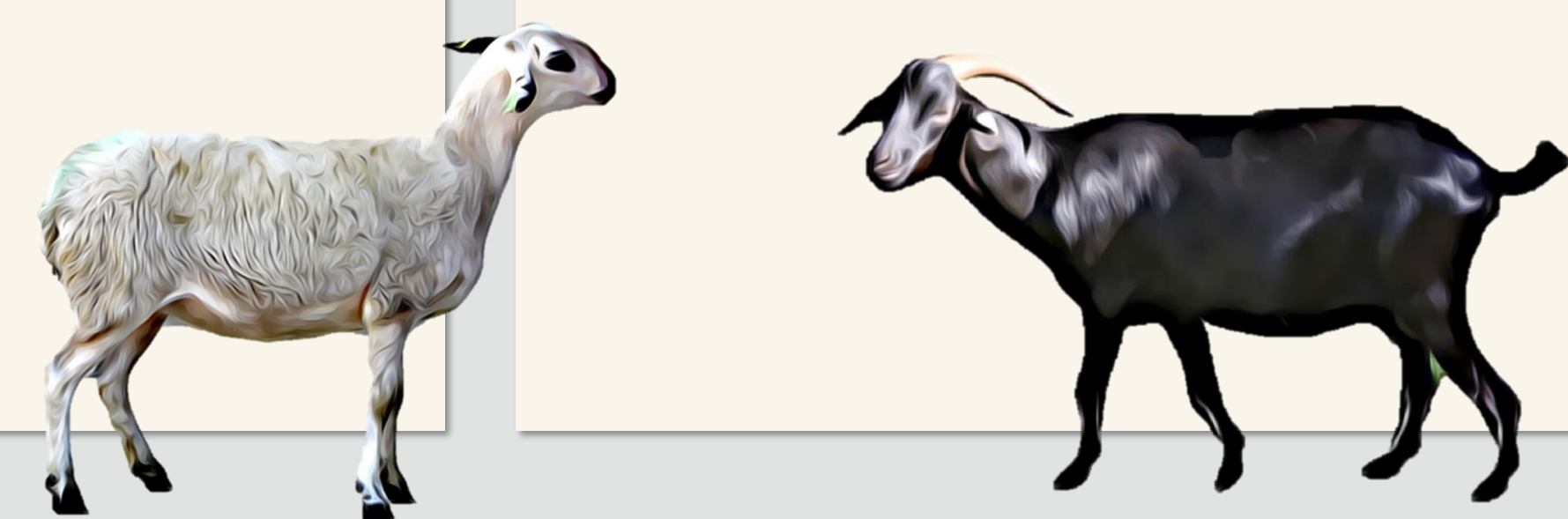
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## INTRODUCTION

**Small ruminant lentiviruses (SRLV)** are a group of viruses that infect and transmit among ovine and caprine species. These inflict progressive and longstanding infections, the majority as asymptomatic or developing late onset clinical signs. The diagnosis is made up with laboratorial methods and given its importance ELISA tests are essential.

Nowadays, in Portugal, there is few information about SRLV infection.



## OBJECTIVES

The **main purpose** of this research was quantifying the seroprevalence of SRLV in Portugal.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

This seroprevalence study was done in herds of ovine and caprine species in **Portugal**.

Flocks were randomly selected, and shepherds were invited to enrol the study.

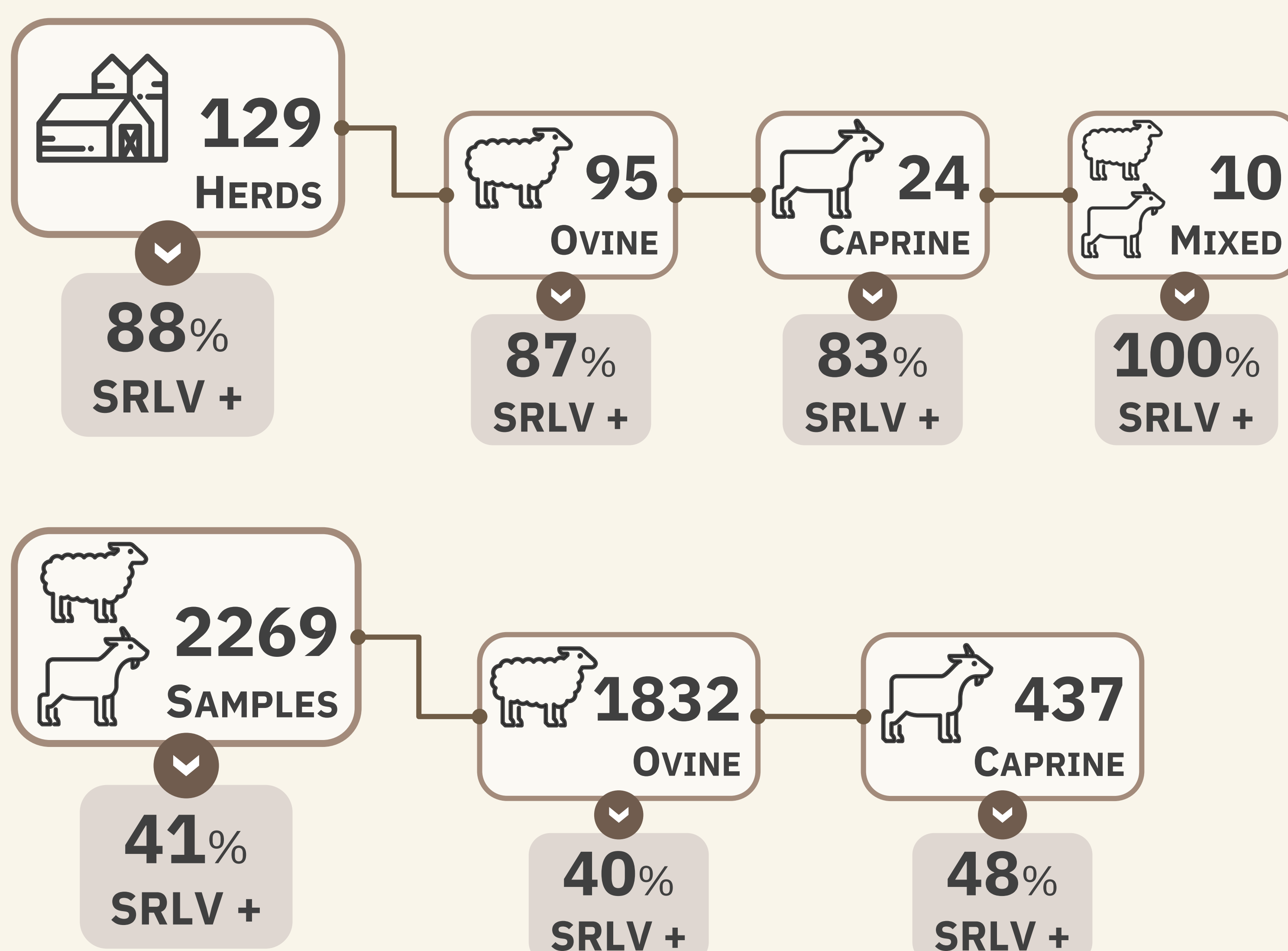
Of different ages, and according to the total number of animals in each herd, between 14 and 19 blood samples were collected.

To determine the positivity/negativity status of each sample, an indirect ELISA test was performed (**ID Screen® MVV/CAEV Indirect**). The herd was classified as positive if at least one animal was seropositive.



## RESULTS

We obtained the following data:



## CONCLUSIONS

- We established a high seroprevalence of SRLV in Portugal.
- These results highlight the importance of using laboratorial methods such as ELISA tests for early detection of infections in small ruminant flocks.
- It should be promoted the conception of identification and control programs for SRLV, strictly audited with the main aim of eradicating this disease.

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