Reviewer's report

Title: Brucella spp. infection in large ruminants in an endemic area of Egypt: cross-sectional study investigating seroprevalence, risk factors and livestock owner's knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAPs).

Version: 2 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Georgios Pappas

Reviewer's report:

The present manuscript, holds an interesting premise and delivers an important message related to public health, but this message is lost in the overflowing information added about epidemiology and seroprevalence and the overall length of the manuscript. The authors should focus on the questionnaire, knowledge of, and attitudes towards the disease, which are the major aspects here and demonstrate a significant surveillance issue. Information about epidemiology in the specific village, as well as statistical details, can be dealt with in a few lines and not overburden the manuscript. The main issues here are that despite knowledge, milk is not boiled prior to making cheese for example, and that sick animals are sold for convenience reasons. This is actually the way the disease continues to circulate in endemic areas, and this is why it is a public health (and not simply veterinarian)issue. Previous questionnaire surveys on knowledge and attitudes of patients towards brucellosis existing in the literature should be sought out and results compared.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'