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Negotiating cohabitation in a Nigerian abattoir: One Health perspectives of human-animal-ecosystem interactions examined in the light of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

Inhalt

As urbanization reshapes ecosystems, human-animal-environment interactions intensify, increasing zoonotic disease risks. This One Health study investigates a key interface: a Nigerian abattoir during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Combining ethnography with semi-structured interviews, and biological sampling of livestock, dogs, and small mammals, we explored zoonotic transmission pathways. Fieldwork in both rainy and dry seasons (2022) revealed the abattoir as a densely shared space, where seasonal rhythms shape interaction intensity. While no SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected, antibodies were found in cattle, goats, sheep, dogs, and shrews, with notably higher seroprevalence during the rainy season—suggesting prior cross-species exposure shaped by environmental and behavioural dynamics. Our findings underscore the critical role of abattoirs as multispecies hubs and highlight the value of integrating qualitative and serological data in zoonotic surveillance. Strengthening interdisciplinary strategies in such high-contact settings is essential to mitigating emerging health threats and enhancing resilience across species.

Keywords

One Health, abattoir, Nigeria, livestock, anthropology, urbanization, SARS-CoV-2, wildlife

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No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

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