



Press Release

Virbac has been exclusively dedicated to animal health for over 40 years. The fight against zoonoses such as rabies has always been part of its mission and today, Virbac hopes to provide a significant contribution towards combating canine leishmaniosis.

In Europe, leishmaniosis, a parasitic disease caused by *Leishmania infantum*, mainly affects dogs in the countries of the Mediterranean shore, particularly Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the south of France. It is transmitted by an insect bite (sand fly) and affects many dogs in those countries. According to scientific publications, 24 million are at risk of transmission, 10% of which might be infected (with marked regional variations). There is currently no vaccine against this disease in Europe and the disease is moving north from year to year.

In 2003, Virbac acquired BVT, a company which was working on a vaccine project against canine leishmaniosis in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (Research Development Institute – a French public research organisation). Since then, Virbac has directed all product development operations with a view both to defining its precise and industrially reproducible specifications and to demonstrating its efficacy and safety in various Mediterranean countries where the disease is endemic. The work has just been completed and, with statistical evidence, demonstrates the protection provided by the vaccine.

The registration dossier is currently being prepared and will be submitted in Europe in early 2010. If the product is approved by the authorities of the countries concerned, and depending on the time the evaluation takes, it might be available on the market from 2011 or 2012.

VIRBAC : Passionate about Animal Health

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