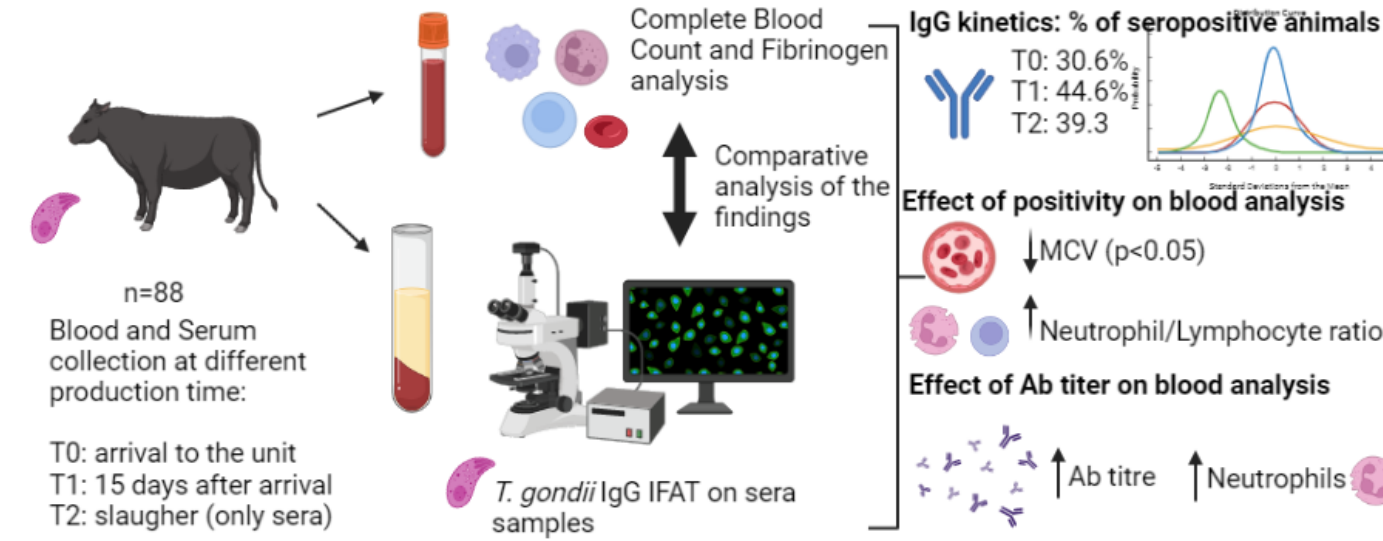
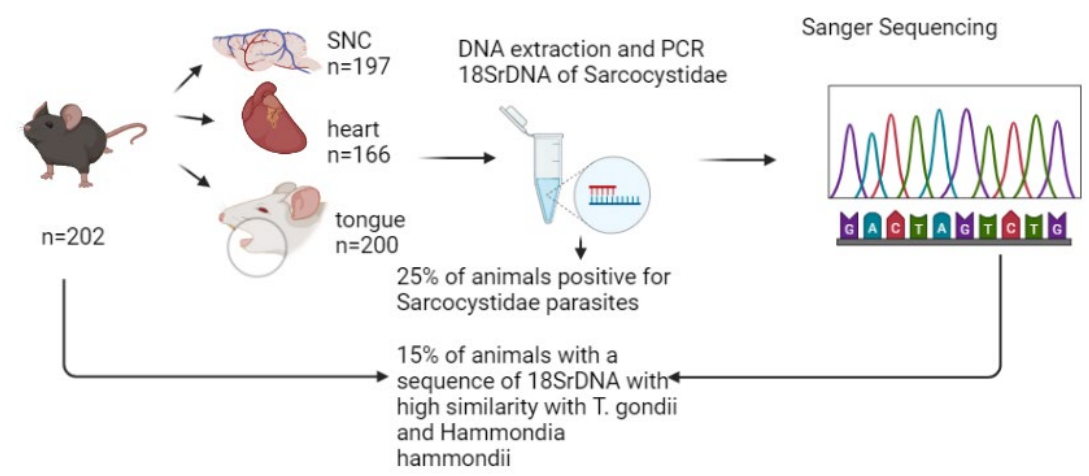


Exploring Toxoplasmosis in Emilia-Romagna Region: A One Health Perspective on Animal Infections and Public Health

Objective: *Toxoplasma gondii* is a worldwide Apicomplexa protozoon considered one of the most important food-borne parasite globally. The aim of the present project was to carry out an epidemiological study in Emilia-Romagna Region on *Toxoplasma infection* from a One health perspective, assessing the presence of the infection in synanthropic rodents and studying the disease dynamics in beef cattle.

Materials & Methods and Results:



Conclusions: The high exposure of synanthropic rodents to *T. gondii*/*H. hammondii* suggests the important role of these species as environmental indicator of feline-shed oocysts contamination. The findings in cattle contribute to elucidate the complex pathophysiological mechanisms of bovine toxoplasmosis.

Future Proposal: Further analyses will be performed to discriminate *T. gondii* from *H. hammondii* infection in synanthropic rodents and to genotype *T. gondii* positive samples. Regarding beef cattle, direct detection of *T. gondii* on heart samples will be carried out to compare serological results with molecular ones and to evaluate the risk of beef consumption.

Period Abroad: The candidate is currently spending his period abroad at Saluvet Group (Complutense University, Madrid), focusing his research in *T. gondii* genotyping and quantitative techniques for toxoplasmosis diagnosis.