



## Study of animal welfare through analysis and comparison of the presence of foot pad dermatitis in broilers raised in controlled environments in Brazil and Spain<sup>1</sup>

*Estudo do bem estar animal mediante análise e comparação da presença de pododermatite em frangos de corte criados em ambientes controlados no Brasil e Espanha<sup>1</sup>*

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**Abstract:** The pododermatitis interacts directly with the animal welfare, it is a disease that alters the behavior, causing serious discomfort to the animals and is also a port for incoming pathogens, being the legs constantly on the chickens litter. We collected data of male and female chicken's feet with 14, 28 and 42 days of age, in four negative pressures poultry (A, B, C and D) with controlled temperature, either of the coolers side and of the exhausters side, totaling 144 birds in hot season in Brazil and 144 birds in cold season in Spain, applying an evaluation of injury scores of 1-4. Males and females showed no significant differences in any country, although the media in Brazil were higher. In Spain the aviary A showed higher scores of injuries and in Brazil there was no significant difference in any aviary. Regarding ages, in animals with 28 and 42 days, the lesions were significantly bigger than 14 days in both countries. The scores on hand showed significant differences only for the media in Brazil, which were higher than that of Spain. Being the area of the coolers more wet, this indicates that it may increase the injury index, with the aggravation of the external temperature and relative humidity of the air higher in Brazil. We conclude that the external ambience influences the internal ambience and added to the management and reuse of the litter may interfere in increasing injury score as the birds gain more weight.

**Keywords:** cushion plant lesion, contact dermatitis, negative pressure, ambience.

**Resumo:** A pododermatite interage diretamente com o bem estar animal, pois é uma enfermidade que altera o comportamento, provocando serio desconforto aos animais, sendo também uma porta para entrada de patógenos, por estarem às patas constantemente sobre a cama das aves. Coletamos dados de patas de frangos machos e fêmeas com 14, 28 e 42 dias de idade, em quatro aviários (A, B, C e D) climatizados de pressão negativa tanto do lado dos resfriadores como do lado dos exaustores, no total de

144 aves em época quente no Brasil e 144 aves em época fria na Espanha, aplicando a avaliação de escores de lesões de 1 a 4. Machos e fêmeas não apresentaram diferenças significativas em nenhum país, embora que as medias do Brasil foram superiores. Na Espanha o aviário A apresentou um maior escore de lesões e no Brasil não houve diferença significativa em nenhum aviário. Quanto às idades, com 28 e 42 dias, as lesões foram maiores significativamente que 14 dias em ambos os países. Os escores por lado apresentaram diferenças significativas somente para as medias do Brasil, que foram superiores que as da Espanha. Por ser a área dos resfriadores mais úmida, indica que pode aumentar o índice de lesões, com o agravante das temperaturas externas e umidade relativa do ar mais elevadas no Brasil. Concluímos que a ambiência externa influencia na ambiência interna e somado ao manejo e reaproveitamento de cama, sugerem interferir no aumento escore de lesões na medida que as aves ganham mais peso.

**Palavras chave:** lesão do coxim plantar, dermatite de contato, pressão negativa, ambiência.

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## Introduction

The poultry industry has been able to develop high-level technologies in these more than one hundred years of existence, reaching high zootechnical results. These advances have been obtained through a lot of financial investment in ambience, making the handling work more efficient. However, to offset this economic contribution, the producers were taken to increase the population density in aviary, mainly broiler chickens, currently one of the most discussed and questionable points regarding the BEA (Animal Welfare).

BEA has been a major problem in Europe over the past decades (Saraiva et al., 2016) and evolved throughout the world, yet the increase in BEA requirements, generally results in an increase in production costs

(GOCSIK et al., 2016). Industrial chickens type broiler, as well as the commercial laying hens to produce more and quickly, are genetically improved and submitted to an intensive confinement system with automated comfortable ambience, coupled with high density and nutritional diets high density, along with a sophisticated biosecurity to prevent diseases (BENEVIDES et al., 2013a, 2013b).

As a scientific interpretation for BEA, the representation most accepted is based on the five liberties, which are: (1) free of hunger and thirst; (2) freedom from discomfort; (3) free from pain, injury and disease; (4) free to express their typical behavior; and (5) free from fear and anguish (FAROUK et al., 2016).

In the category of productivity, Brazil occupies a great prominence place in the global poultry industry, because, as the third largest producer in constantly growing and largest exporter of poultry meat (ABPA, 2016), must always be excelling in their results. Parallel to the zootechnical progress, the demands of society such as food safety, traceability, environmental protection and sustainability, has also evolved, among these, we highlight the BEA as the focus of our work. In conventional production systems it is necessary to provide permanent access to food and water at a maximum density of 42 kg / m<sup>2</sup>, if the creations have adequate ventilation and heating (FAROUK et al., 2016). Furthermore, the high density in the production of broilers affects BEA, because it provides weakness in the legs, the shank and foot pads (Zhang et al., 2011), and also the increase in air temperature can cause serious problems related to thermal comfort.

The commercialization of chicken feet, in Brazil, is directed to Asian markets (ABPA, 2016), this factor adds value to a low acceptance product on the intern market, favoring the profitability of Brazilian companies, however, pododermatite is a critical problem which can compromise

exports of chickens (Teixeira et al., 2015), because they are eatable parts of the bird that are in high demand, especially in Southeast Asia (ZHANG et al., 2011). Chicken legs are considered a culinary delicacy in many cultures and became the most economically important part of the chicken, after the breast and wings, which are first and second, respectively (CHEN et al., 2016).

The pododermatitis or footpad lesions or contact dermatitis (Berchieri JR. et al., 2009), interacts directly with the BEA, because besides harming productivity and increase the sentences of broiler carcass parts in slaughter houses, is a disease that changes the behavior of birds raised on the floor and causes serious discomfort to the animals.

The lesions in the footpad can become a gateway for bacterial infections (for example Staphylococci), that will affect the health of the bird (Bassler et al., 2013), being the paws continuously on the chickens litter. Furthermore, the plantar cushion dermatitis demonstrated compromise the weight gain in the rate of 7.75% and feed conversion efficiency in 4.16%, respectively, in 37 days of production (DUNLOP et al., 2016).

The lesions usually begin with discolouration of the skin, followed by inflammation, erosions and hyperkeratosis of the skin, which can progress to ulceration and necrosis of the epidermis. (WEBER et al., 2015). The pododermatite was classified as an economic problem for the poultry industry of broilers and turkeys in the UK, North America and Australia, due to inadequate conditions of litter, especially the excess of humidity (SANTOS et al., 2002). Lesions that are caused by pododermatite are a concern to the poultry industry as the cause of the BEA is considered very important, especially in Europe (SHEPHERD; FAIRCHILD, 2010).

Besides causing the degradation of the leg quality and economic loss, the appearance of lesions on the legs, is now used as an evaluation criterion of BEA in poultry production systems in Europe and the USA (CHEN et al., 2016). Due to the value of this product on the market also as the growing issues of BEA, are the main interests of the poultry industry to reduce sentences for this cause in industrial abattoirs (SHEPHERD; FAIRCHILD, 2010). Studies conducted in the United Kingdom report an average prevalence of 14.8% of pododermatitis in 86 batches of 21 conventional chicken farms, and the average

prevalence of 98.1% was found in 128 batches of 23 organic chicken farms (ASK, 2010).

Repeated use of litter is being a common practice in Brazilian aviaries, mainly due to factors such as difficulty and replacement costs as well as this destination at the end of each created broiler batch (MENDES et al., 2004). However, this practice, even with appropriate management, after an excessive period, can cause a hardening of litter and take to more frequent appearance of pododermatite (Berchieri JR. et al., 2009), which worsens as the birds gain weight and it occurs with a higher proportion from 28 days of age.

Factors such as high humidity and consequent increase in ammonia in high population density, especially in the modern environment of computerized aviaries controlled by exhausters, nebulisers and coolers type cooling (Mendes et al., 2004), can be considered as aggravating the occurrence of foot pad dermatitis, when the birds are also on reused litter.

The appearance of lesions in the footpad of the bird begins with an inflammation of the skin that is in permanent contact with the litter, which associated with corrosive factors present in it, speed up a ulcerative process, because as exist a lot of

faeces on the litter, caused by the high densities in commercial poultry production, the results can be evolutive and progressive.

The pododermatite is an important marker of degradation of poultry litter, due to the high density accommodation that is severely criticized by animal welfare associations (Bernardi, 2011), mainly associated with repetitive use of litter for several creations and even for years, being removed often only partially when it exceeds the low walls of the aviaries.

These modern aviaries are already used around the world, whether in areas of high or low temperatures and with relative humidity varies according to the region, however we do not know if these external environmental factors can change and provide an effect or not the occurrence of foot pad dermatitis.

Pododermatitis is a condition of the broilers legs which is diagnosed by the observation of a dark brown color stained on its feet, at the broiler, the lesion can also be found in the hocks (MARTRENCHAR et al., 2002).

The pododermatitis has been considered as a kind of footpad contact dermatitis in chickens, since it occurs at the points of contact with the ground (HASHIMOTO et al., 2011). The lesions

usually begin with discolouration of the skin, followed by inflammation, erosions and hyperkeratosis of the skin, which can progress to ulceration and necrosis of the epidermis (WYNEKEN WEBER et al., 2015).

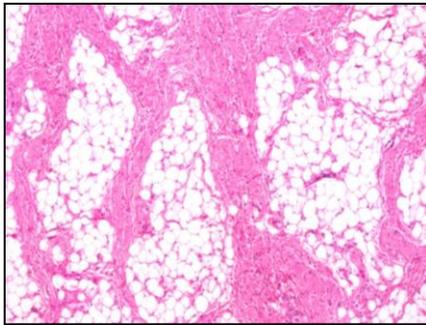
These foot lesions are associated with various environmental and nutritional factors (Gleice & Alves, 2013) such as diet, nutritional deficiencies, wet litter, types of sand materials, sex, weight of the birds, the season and density (Wyneken Weber et al., 2015), noting that Martrenchar et al. (2002) observed that this last item increases the prevalence of pododermatitis in industry broilers.

The cushion plant lesion in broiler chickens, is one criterion of condemnation on health inspection during slaughter, where these economic losses can be a significant loss for the company and integrated, and also for the export market (SINCLAIR et al., 2015).

To evaluate with a single standard of pododermatitis injury scores, according to Ask (2010), there are different types of scores for classification in industrial abattoirs inspected. Hashimoto et al., (2011), classified the footpad lesions in 4 types of scores, where 0 was no injury, score 1 for injuries in some areas (<50%) of the

footpad, a score of 2 for lesions large areas (between 50% and 100%) of the paw and score 3 to injuries throughout the area the footpad and around. Despite being a subjective analysis by macroscopic observation, as occurs in industrial poultry slaughterhouses, the important thing is not escape of standards already established by some authors. Therefore, there is not yet a single rule for evaluation of scores of

injuries to pad dermatitis, however all authors, always consider a lack the presence of severe injuries, gradually and progressively, which can start at zero or 1, going up to 4 or 5 respectively. In the histological aspect, we see in Figures 1 and 2 a moderate fibrosis in the subcutaneous tissue that we can consider as score 1, with an increase of fibrous tissue around the adipose tissue that composes the footpad.

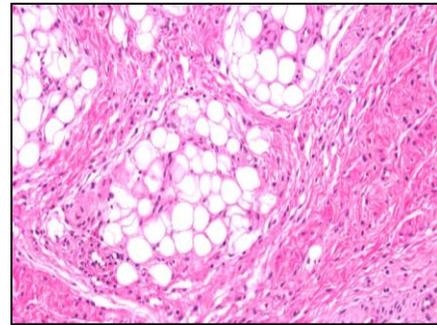


**Figure 1:** Fibrosis (multiplication x20)

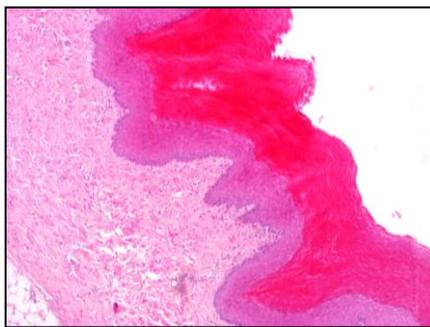
**Source:** Histology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary of Complutense University of Madrid.

In Figures 3 and 4 we observed a hyperkeratosis which features a thickening

or hypertrophy of the stratum corneum of the epithelium, achieving a score of 2.



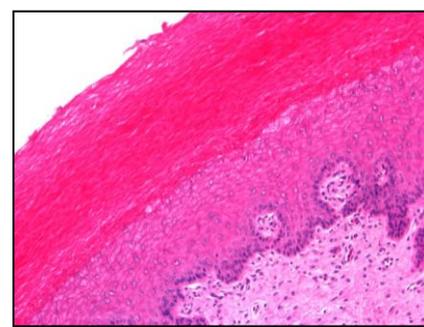
**Figure 2:** Fibrosis (multiplication x100)



**Figure 3:** Hyperkeratosis (multiplication x20)

**Source:** Histology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary of Complutense University of Madrid.

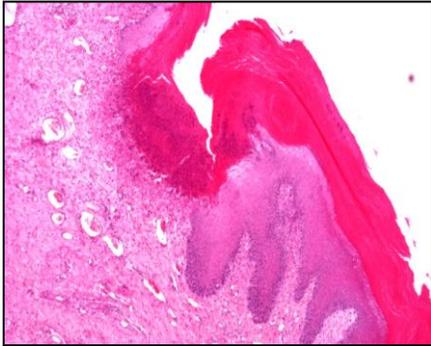
Whereas as a score of 3 (Figures 5 and 6), we find a greater hyperkeratosis and a small ulcer of the epithelial tissue (skin)



**Figure 4:** Hyperkeratosis (objective x100)

with loss of focal coating, accompanied by an inflammation of the connective tissue (dermis) with dilated vessels, edema and

infiltration of polymorphonuclear leukocytes heterophile and some lymphocytes and

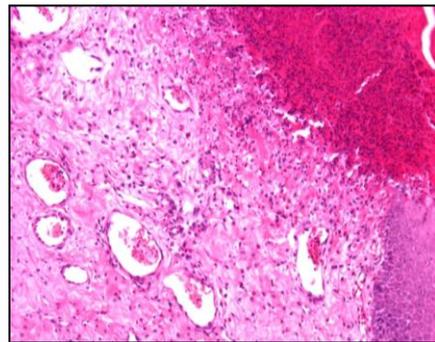


**Figure 5:** Hyperkeratosis (multiplication x40)

**Source:** Histology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary of Complutense University of Madrid.

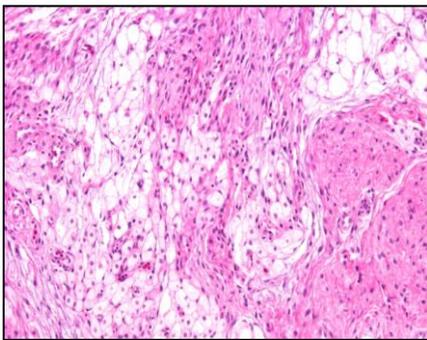
In Figures 7 and 8 we see how a score 4, an extensive necrosis of the epithelial tissue, accompanied by a change

histiocytes.



**Figure 6:** Hyperkeratosis (multiplication x100)

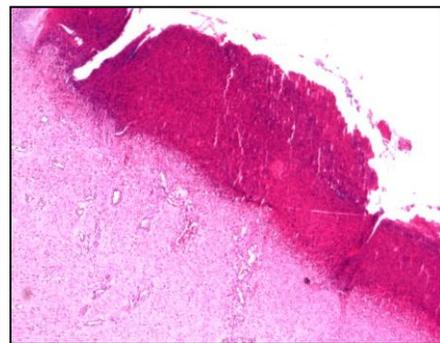
of the dermis with extensive fibrosis and disorganization of the adipose tissue.



**Figure 7:** Pododermatitis (multiplication x100)

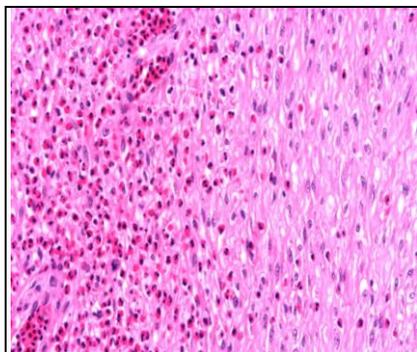
**Source:** Histology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary of Complutense University of Madrid.

Also as a score 4, we have in figures 9 and 10, a purulent dermatitis or suppurative heterophile abundant, resulting from a secondary bacterial infection, that

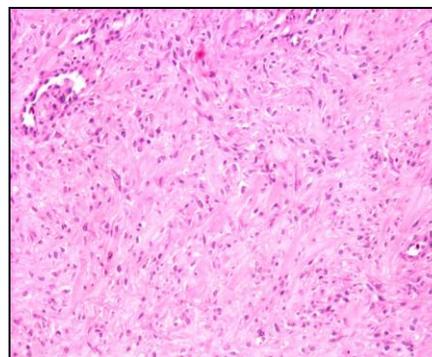


**Figure 8:** Pododermatitis (multiplication x40)

even developing a fibroplasia, with the presence of angioblastos and fibroblasts, begin to form connective tissue (granulation tissue).



**Figure 9:** Pododermatitis (multiplication x200)



**Figure 10:** Pododermatitis (multiplication x40)

**Source:** Histology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary of Complutense University of Madrid.

Our overall objective in this study was to evaluate and observe the differences in injury or not of pododermatitis among broilers raised in different climates, hot in Brazil and cold in Spain, with different densities of birds per square meter and reuse or not of the litter.

In the specific objectives, we made comparisons of injuries or not of pododermatitis between broilers, according to sex, age and the side on which bird developed in the aviary, in each country.

### **Material and Methods**

The whole methodology used in Brazil, has been applied in Spain following the manner described below.

The first data collection period was held in Brazil during the warmer months of April and May, in 2015, in four negative pressures poultry with controlled temperature of Pacatuba Hortigranjeira company, in the geographical environment of the semi-arid zone around

the town of Aracoiaba, about 100 km from Fortaleza, near the central hinterland of the state of Ceará, with the geographic location of 40 ° 21'20 "south latitude, 38 ° 49'40" west longitude, 101m high above sea level (ARACOIABA, 2014) and relative humidity of 50% with an average minimum temperature of 28°C and maximum 36°C, according to technical information of the company.

For the second period, the data collection was carried out in Spain during the coldest months of February and March in 2016, in four negative pressures poultry with controlled temperature of a NUTRAVE company in region of Castilla La Mancha, next city of Madrid, the capital state of Madrid, with geographical location 40° 24'59 "north latitude and 03 ° 42'09" west longitude (CARTA-NATAL, 2014), with 655m high above sea level (MADRID, 2014), the average relative humidity of 70% (METEOCLIMATIC, 2014) with a

minimum temperature of 2°C and a maximum of 12°C (ACCUWEATHER, 2014).

Were used 144 broilers from each country in a completely randomized design, in two temperatures (a farm in the hot region of Brazil and a farm in the cold region in Spain), three different ages (14, 28 and 42 days), and sex and sides effects (coolers and exhausters), with four replications (aviary), each repetition with 36 broilers, 18 males and 18 females, resulting in a factorial 2 x 3 x 2 x 2.

The temperature external collections were performed by digital laser apparatus in the extreme corners of roofs always in the same location and schedule, next to the coolers (cooling) and exhausters respectively. Internally, both air relative

humidity as temperature, were taken with the digital apparatus, centrally, ten meters on each side of the aviaries also on the same schedule. The broilers were collected at random, 3 males and 3 females on each side of the aviaries, where they have been properly identified by numbers from 1 to 12, in each collection, then they were individually weighed and were took pictures of the two legs at 14, 28 and 42 days of age, in each of the four poultry farms in Brazil and Spain.

For our evaluation, we used the scores from 1 to 4 (Figures 11 to 14), where the score 1 was to no injury in the footpad and gradually raising the level of injury, 2 for moderate injury, 3 for severe injury and 4 for more severe lesion, with no observation of possible injury to fingers.



Figure 11: Score 1



Figure 12: Score 2



Figure 13: Score 3



Figure 14: Score 4

Source: Pictures obtained during the research.

Later the organization of data, each country teams made respectively review, through the display of images.

Data analysis was performed using the Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS Institute, 1990).

Analyses of variance were performed with the GLM procedure. For the media, when there was significance

at  $P < 0.05$ , we used the DUNCAN test (RUIZ-MAYA, 1986).

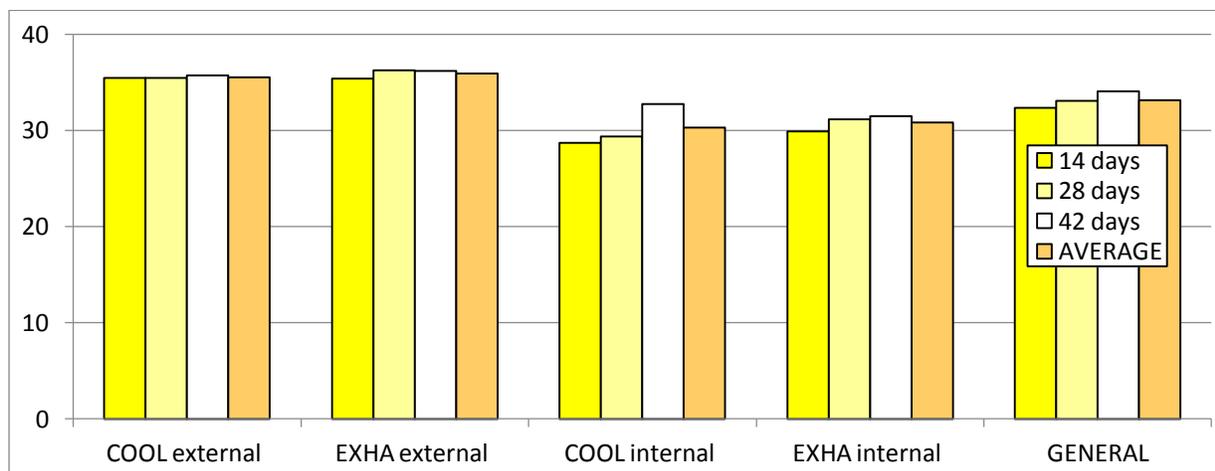
### Results and Discussion

According to the season in each country, the temperatures were different, being in Brazil always higher (Table 1), independent of the ages of the birds and the aviary area, however with a little variation (Graphic 1).

**Table 1.** Temperatures (°C) average (X) obtained in Brazil as the ages of the birds and the area of the aviary.

BRAZIL Temperature	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$
Exhausters external	35,35	36,23	36,18	35,92
Coolers external	35,45	35,45	35,68	35,53
Exhausters internal	29,85	31,13	31,48	30,82
Coolers internal	28,70	29,35	32,75	30,27
General	32,34	33,04	34,02	33,13

**Graphic 1.** Temperatures (°C) average obtained in Brazil as the ages of the poultry and the area of the aviaries.



Cool = Coolers; Exha = Exhausters.

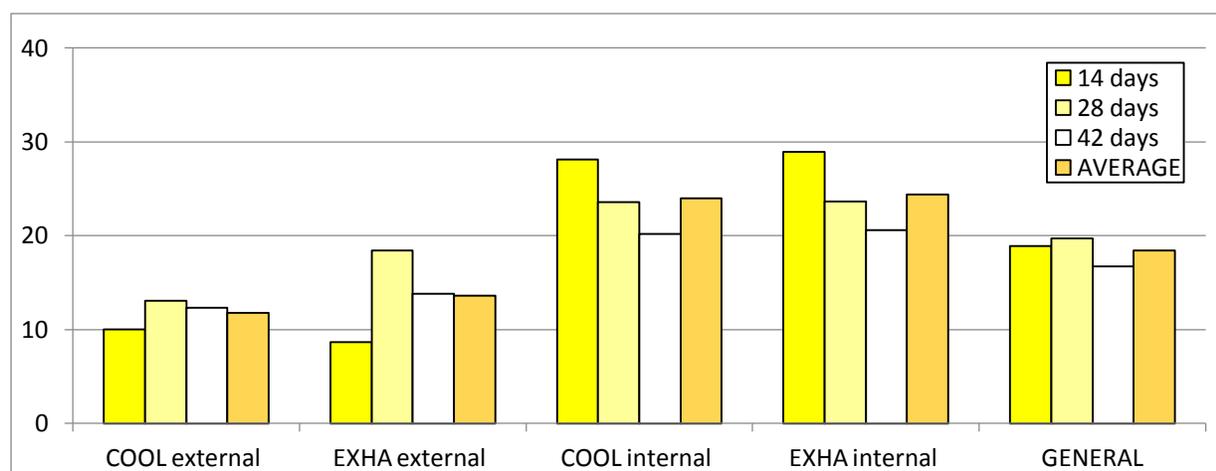
In Spain, the average temperatures were much lower (Table 2) than the obtained

in Brazil, mainly internally as the area in aviaries and ages of the poultry (Graphic 2).

**Table 2.** Temperatures (°C) average (X) obtained in Spain as the ages of the poultry and the area of the aviaries.

SPAIN Temperature	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$
<b>Exhausters external</b>	8,63	18,43	13,78	13,61
<b>Coolers external</b>	9,98	13,08	12,33	11,79
<b>Exhausters internal</b>	28,93	23,60	20,55	24,36
<b>Coolers internal</b>	28,10	23,58	20,20	23,96
<b>General</b>	18,91	19,67	16,71	18,43

**Graphic 2.** Temperatures (°C) average obtained in Spain as the ages of the poultry and the area of the aviaries.



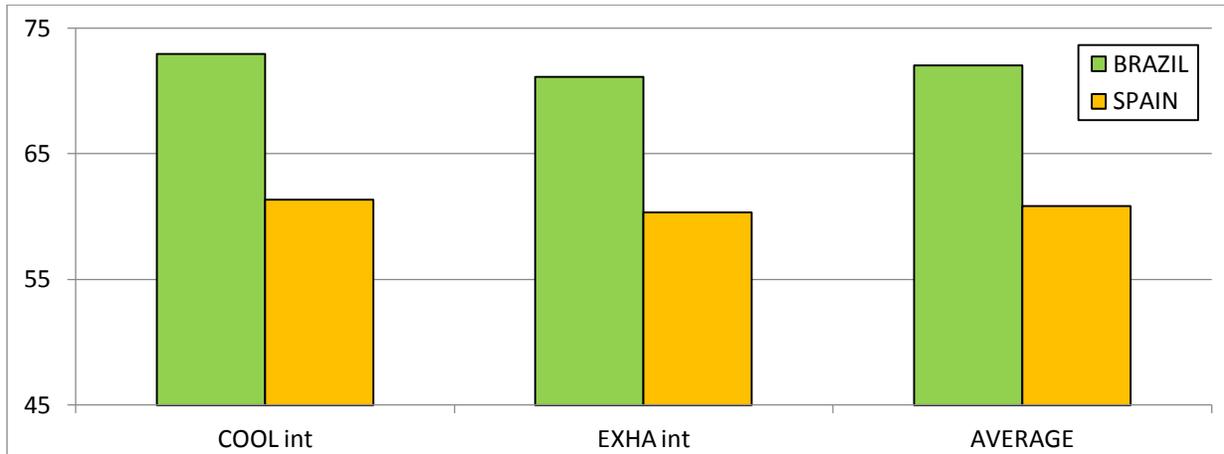
Cool = Coolers; Exha = Exhausters.

The relative humidity was higher (Table 3), expected feature in hot climate in Brazil in media and in any area of aviaries regions (Graphic 3).

**Table 3.** Relative humidity of air (%) average (X) obtained by side of the aviaries in both countries.

Relative humidity of air	internal Exhausters	internal Coolers	$\bar{X}$
<b>BRAZIL</b>	71,09	72,93	72,01
<b>SPAIN</b>	60,33	61,33	60,83

**Graphic 3.** Relative humidity air (%) average obtained by side aviaries in both countries.



Cool = Coolers; Exha = Exhausters.

The averages of live weight, in grams, by age and sex, showed the following values in table 4 and graphic 4, in which

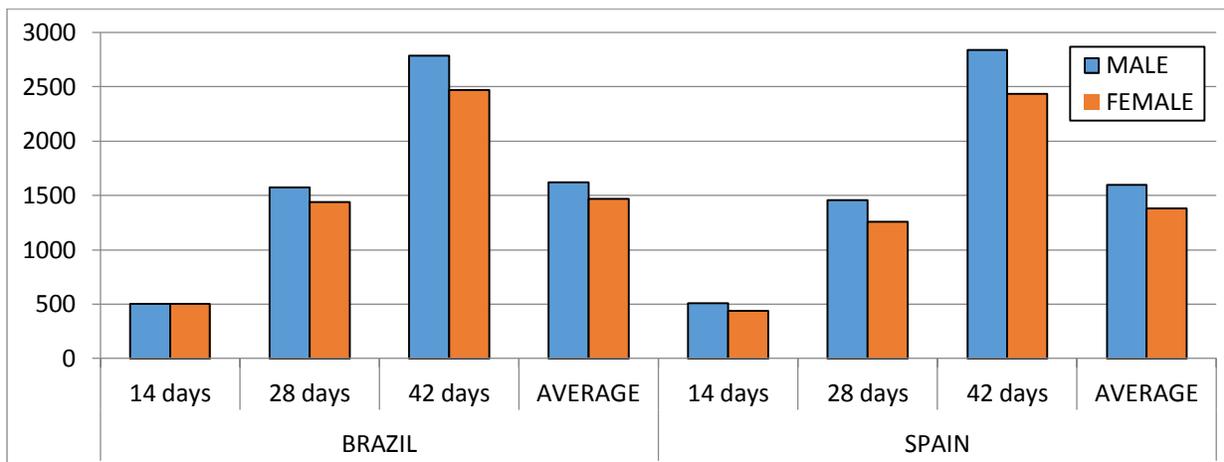
both the countries there were NS (not significant difference) with  $P < 0.05$ .

**Table 4.** Live weight (grams) average (X), by age and gender in Brazil and Spain.

SEX	BRAZIL				SPAIN				N
	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$	
Male	502,08	1572,92	2789,58	1620,10	505,67	1455,83	2838,33	1599,90	144
Female	504,17	1437,50	2468,75	1466,00	440,88	1258,33	2435,83	1378,30	144

N = number of observation.

**Graphic 4.** Live weight (grams) average per sex in Brazil and Spain.



The averages body weight in grams by age and side of the aviaries, showed the following values in Table 5 and

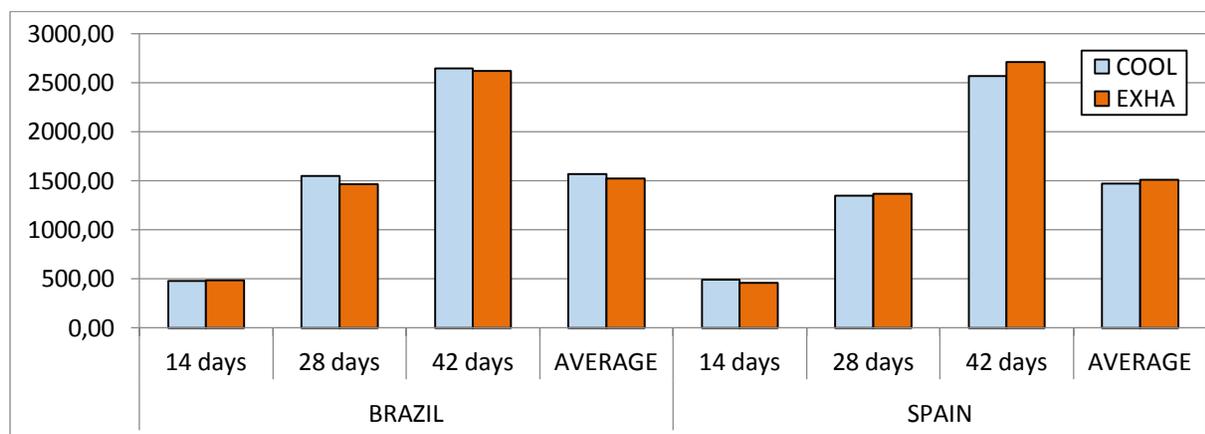
graphic 5, in which both the countries also there were NS with  $P < 0.05$ .

**Table 5.** Live weight (grams) average (X), by age and side of the chicken farms in Brazil and Spain.

Side	BRAZIL				SPAIN				N
	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$	14 days	28 days	42 days	$\bar{X}$	
<b>Cooler</b>	1550,0	2643,7	1566,7		1349,5	2563,3	1467,2	144	
	475,00	0	5	0	488,63	8	3	0	
<b>Exhauster</b>	1460,4	2614,5	1519,4		1364,5	2710,8	1511,1	144	
	481,25	2	8	0	457,92	8	3	0	

N = number of observation.

**Graphic 5.** Live weight (grams) average, by age and side of the chicken farms in Brazil and Spain.



Cool = Coolers; Exha = Exhausters.

The averages scores of lesions of pododermatitis by aviary, not show significant differences (Table 6) in Brazil, despite the higher values than those of Spain, which had significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ).

To the litter of aviaries, were used shaving woods, in Brazil, and had been recycled, while in Spain to the litter was used rice husk or mobile wood residue and was always renewed each broilers accommodation.

**Table 6.** Pododermatitis Scores by aviary and by parents.

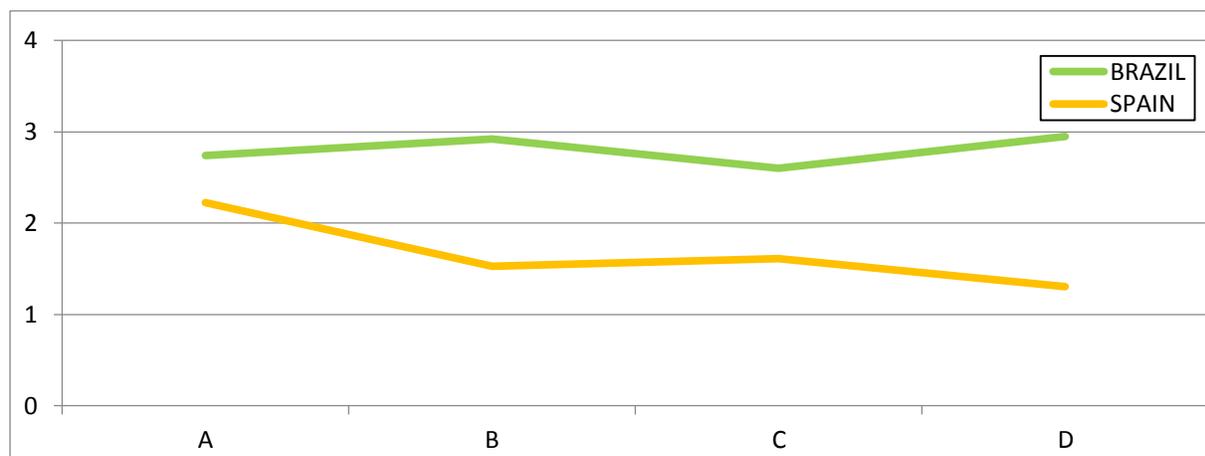
Aviary	BRAZIL	SPAIN	N
A	2,7431 <sup>a</sup>	2,2222 <sup>a</sup>	72
B	2,9236 <sup>a</sup>	1,5278 <sup>b</sup>	72
C	2,6042 <sup>a</sup>	1,6111 <sup>b</sup>	72
D	2,9514 <sup>a</sup>	1,3056 <sup>b</sup>	72

<sup>ab</sup>Distinct index on the same column indicates significant difference (P<0,05) between the average.

N = number of observation.

Only the aviary A, in Spain, daily management by a worker, only obtained a higher score (Graphic 6), possibly computerized monitoring. caused by management, since it had not

**Graphic 6.** Pododermatitis Scores by aviary by country.



The scores of lesions of pododermatitis by age showed significant differences (P<0.05) in both countries

(Table 7), 14 days in relation to other age groups, noting that Brazil values were higher than the average of Spain (Graphic 7).

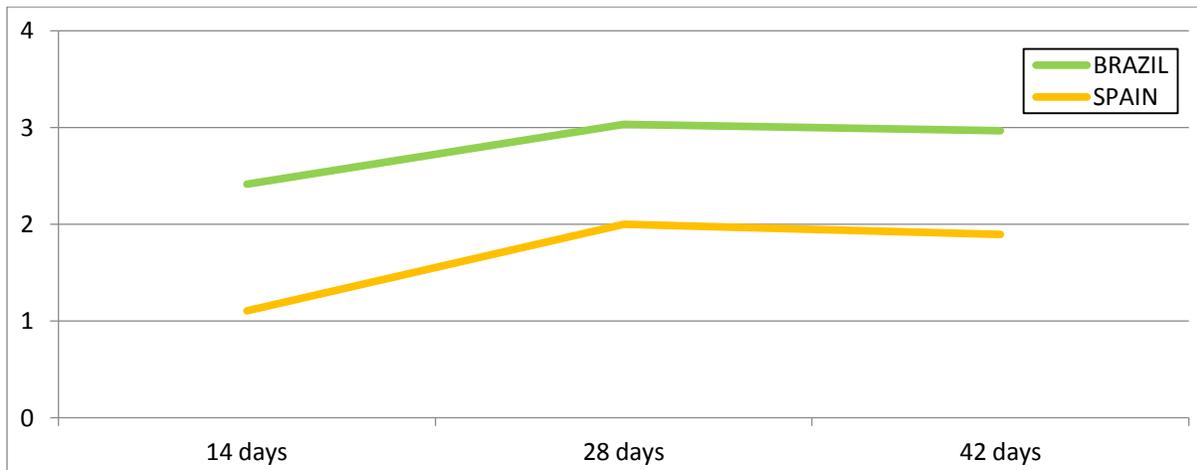
**Table 7.** Pododermatitis Scores by age by country.

Age	BRAZIL	SPAIN	N
14 days	2,4167 <sup>b</sup>	1,1042 <sup>b</sup>	96
28 days	3,0313 <sup>a</sup>	2,0000 <sup>a</sup>	96
42 days	2,9688 <sup>a</sup>	1,8958 <sup>a</sup>	96

<sup>ab</sup>Distinct index on the same column indicates significant difference (P<0,05) between the average.

N = number of observations.

**Graphic 7.** Pododermatitis Score by age by country.



Regarding the ages with 28 and 42 days, the lesions were significantly higher than 14 days in both countries, demonstrating an advance in pododermatitis lesions after this age.

Males and females showed no significant differences in any country (Table 8), although the averages in Brazil were higher for both sexes (Graphic 8).

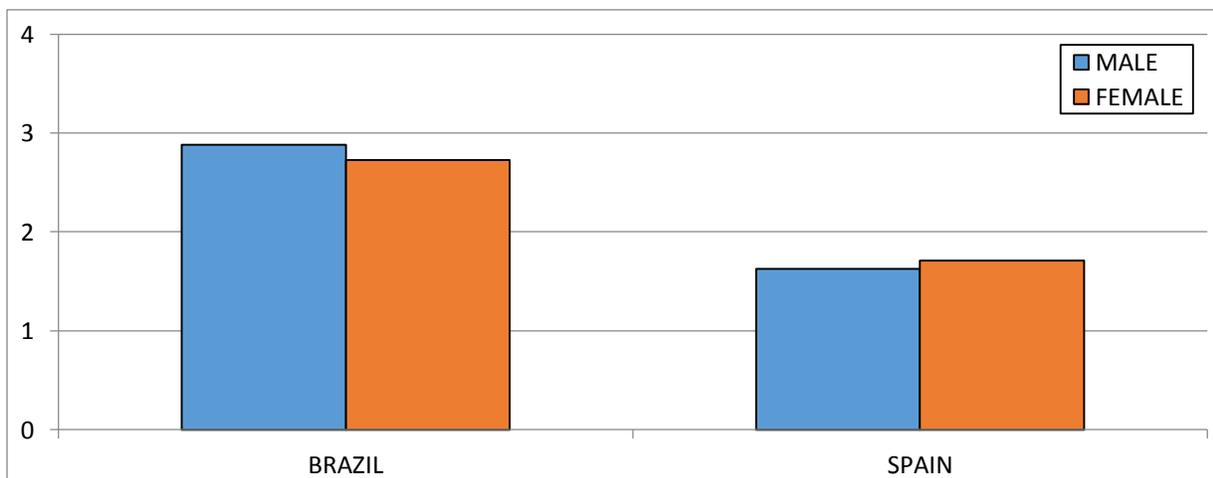
**Table 8.** Pododermatitis Score by sex by country.

Sex	BRAZIL	SPAIN	N
Male	2,8819	1,6250	144
Female	2,7292	1,7083	144

Pododermatitis Score average by sex on average significant for Brazil and no significant for Spain ( $P < 0,05$ ).

N = number of observation.

**Graphic 8.** Pododermatitis Score by sex by country.



The index scores of lesions of pododermatitis by aviary side showed significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) only to

Brazil (Table 9), noting that these values were on average higher than in Spain (Graphic 9).

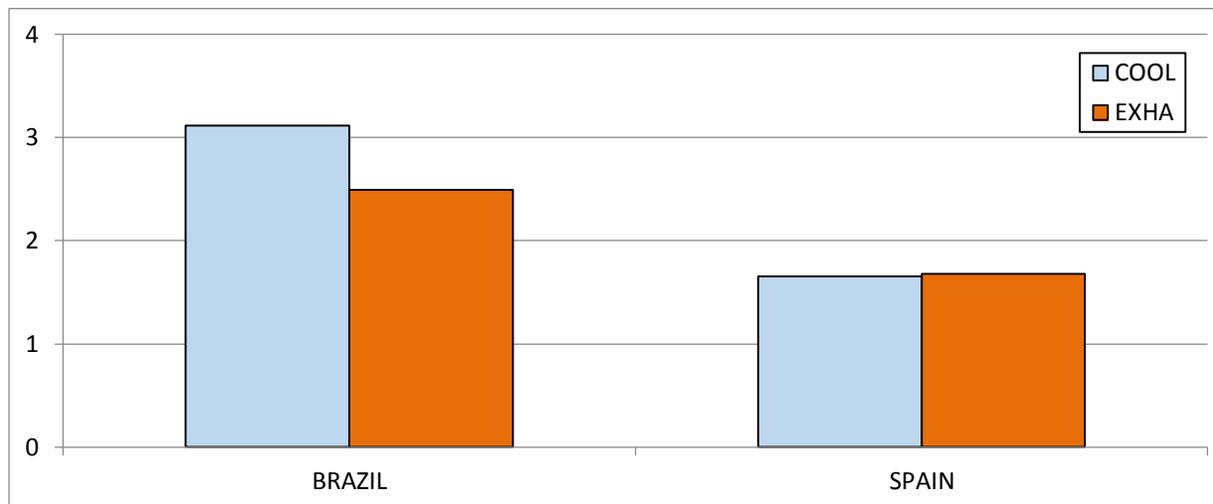
**Table 9.** Pododermatitis Score by side by country.

Side	BRAZIL	SPAIN	N
Coolers	3,1181	1,6528	144
Exhausters	2,4931	1,6806	144

Pododermatitis Score average by on average significant for Brazil and no significant for Spain ( $P < 0,05$ ).

N = number of observation.

**Graphic 9.** Pododermatitis Score by sex by country.



Cool = Coolers; Exha = Exhausters.

The live weight of broilers in Brazil (Table 10 e 11), demonstrated statistical values highly significant ( $P < 0,001$ ), according to age and sex, as well

as the interaction of these parameters. But, had no interaction to pad dermatitis, in spite of high significance ( $P < 0,001$ ) for age and part of the aviary in isolation.

**Table 10.** Relationship of age, gender and side with foot pad dermatitis in Brazil.

Age	Gender	Side	Live weight	Foot pad
14	F	E	467	2
14	F	C	517	2
14	M	E	500	2
14	M	C	496	2
28	F	E	1433	3
28	F	C	1442	3
28	M	E	1488	3
28	M	C	1658	3
42	F	E	2504	3
42	F	C	2433	3
42	M	E	2725	3
42	M	C	2854	3
Main Effects				
Age	14		495 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>
	28		1505 <sup>b</sup>	3 <sup>b</sup>
	42		2629 <sup>c</sup>	3 <sup>b</sup>
Sex	F		1466	3
	M		1620	3
Side	E		1520	3
	C		1567	3
Sem			57.3	0.26
P- valor	AGE		<0.001	<0.001
	GEN		<0.001	0.19
	SIDE		0.15	<0.001
	AGE*GEN		<0.001	0.41
	AGE*SIDE		0.65	0.44
	GEN*SIDE		0.12	0.85
	AGE*GEN*SIDE		0.23	0.41

**Table 11.** Relationship of age, gender and side with foot pad dermatitis in Spain.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Side</b>	<b>Live weight</b>	<b>Foot pad</b>
14	F	E	430	1
14	F	C	452	1
14	M	E	486	1
14	M	C	525	1
28	F	E	1248	2
28	F	C	1269	2
28	M	E	1482	2
28	M	C	1430	2
42	F	E	2583	2
42	F	C	2288	2
42	M	E	2838	2
42	M	C	2838	2
<b>Main Effects</b>				
<b>Age</b>	14		473 <sup>a</sup>	1 <sup>a</sup>
	28		1357 <sup>b</sup>	2 <sup>b</sup>
	42		2637 <sup>c</sup>	2 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Sex</b>	F		1378	2
	M		1560	2
<b>Side</b>	E		1511	2
	C		1467	2
<b>Sem</b>			62.3	0.23
<b>P- valor</b>	AGE		<0.001	<0.001
	GEN		<0.001	0.53
	SIDE		0.22	0.83
	AGE*GEN		<0.001	0.79
	AGE*SIDE		0.11	0.87
	GEN*SIDE		0.27	1.00
	AGE*GEN*SIDE		0.11	0.29

## Conclusions

We can conclude that in the conditions that the research was conducted, the pododermatitis in broilers may be different for a few reasons. The area of coolers, for being wetter, indicates that it may increase the injury index, with the aggravation of the highest external temperature and the highest relative humidity of the air, as is the case in Brazil.

The age of birds is also a factor that can cause the pododermatitis due to progressive weight gain. Depending on the situation that the litter is, either softer or more rigid, you can also change the pododermatitis score. We conclude, mainly, that the external ambience influences the internal ambience and, added to handling and recycling litter, may interfere in the increase of pododermatitis index with the age of the birds and to the extent that they gain more weight.

The area of coolers, for being wetter, indicates that it may increase the injury index, with the aggravation of the highest external

temperature and the highest relative humidity of the air, as is the case in Brazil. The age of birds is also a factor that can cause the pododermatitis due to progressive weight gain.

Depending on the situation that the litter is, either softer or more rigid, you can also change the pododermatitis score.

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