

## COMPARISON OF THE DIFFERENT THERAPY METHODS OF PROLAPSED GLAND OF THE NICTITATING MEMBRANE IN DOGS

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**Summary.** The research focused on prolapsed gland of the nictitating membrane in dogs and two existing methods (conservative and surgical) used for treatment of this syndrome were compared. In 2002–2005 Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas Clinics for Small Animals of the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy in total treated 546 dogs with eye diseases. The prolapse of the nictitans gland was diagnosed in 69 dogs (12.6%). The conservative treatment included the use of corticosteroids and antibiotics in form of eye drops and ointments. For the surgical treatment two methods of third eyelid gland replacement and stabilization were chosen: orbital rim anchorage technique described by Kaswan and Martin (1985) and imbrication of gland with adjacent tissues proposed by Morgan *et al.* (1993).

Our results have shown, that the above mentioned pathology was more common in brachicephal breeds, their mongrels and in male dogs. It can be stated that medical treatment was suitable for 20.3 % of dogs with the prolapse of the nictitans gland, but the effectiveness of was only 13.0%. Remaining 79.7 % of dogs needed surgical treatment. The advantages of orbital rim anchorage technique for prolapsed and hyperplasic gland, proposed by Kaswan and Martin, were smaller expenditures of time and labour, and simpler surgery procedures. The disadvantage of this method is restricted mobility of the eyelid on the cornea in post-surgical period.

**Keywords:** dog, third eyelid, prolapse of the nictitans gland, treatment methods, corticosteroids, antibiotics.