

## PATHOLOGICAL MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN DOGS CAUSED BY ENDOCARDIOSIS

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**Summary.** Autopsies on the 89 bodies of male and female dogs of different breeds were carried out to determine the actual cause of death. Endocardiosis was stated in 49,2% thoroughbred and 61,5% mixed breed cases. The prevalence of the disease increased with age: from 23,4% in the age group under 1 year to 61,5% in the age group from 1 to 10 years. Shrunken, distorted atrioventricular valves, chiefly the left atrioventricular valve, were most common in particular breeds, such as the Cocker Spaniel, the Maltese, the Bull terrier, the Great Dane, the Pekinese, the French bulldog, the Poodle, the St. Bernard, the Shar Pei, the Dachshund as well as in mixed-breed dogs. Microscopically, the valve collagen bundles were swollen and fractured. The spongiosa was greatly thickened by the deposition of the amorphous ground substance. Changes secondary to the atrioventricular valvular insufficiency were the left ventricle and papillary muscle hypertrophy, dilation of the atria, subendocardial fibrosis in the left atria and the ventricle.

**Keywords:** dog, valves, endocardiosis.