

PREVALENCE OF CHLAMYDIOSIS IN LITHUANIAN CANINE POPULATION

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Summary. Blood serum samples for serological testing of chlamydiosis were collected from 1133 clinically healthy dogs and 454 ones under suspicion of being infected with chlamydia. These samples were tested by means of standard Complement Fixation Test (CFT) and Immuno Ferment Assay (IFA). Investigation revealed that specific anti-chlamydia antibodies were present in 19.5 % clinically healthy dogs tested using CFT, and in 38.1 % clinically healthy dogs tested using IFA. Mean antibody titers were 3.23 log₂ and 6.79 log₂ respectively. It was determined that canine breeds with particularly elevated sensitivity to chlamydia are not present in Lithuania. Our results also demonstrated that the age of dogs is not important neither for chlamydia prevalence, for increased sensitivity to chlamydia in any age dogs' groups. Investigation also revealed that IFA is expedient to use at high extent of chlamydiosis testing. Application of this method allows to determine 18.6 % more samples serologically positive in comparison to CFT ($p < 0.05$). Mean specific antibody titer was 3.6 log₂ higher ($p < 0.05$) in the samples from various age groups of dogs. Statistically significant elevation of mean antibody titer in blood serum samples obtained from dogs suspected of being infected with chlamydia can be determined using both standard serological assays.

Keywords: C.psittaci, dog, antibodies, CFT, IFA