

PREVALENCE OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS IN ALYTUS AND KAUNAS COUNTIES

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Summary. From the year 1998 to 2000, 727 cows and 15 pregnant heifers were tested for bovine tuberculosis at Alytus and Kaunas counties. A tuberculin test indicated 5,5 % cows to be positive, 6,3 % - had inconclusive reaction. The comparative tuberculin test revealed 47,3 % positive and 28,4 % had inconclusive reaction. For lesions of tuberculosis suspected animals were examined. Post mortem characteristic tubercles were detected in bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (100%), lungs (69,2 %), the distal part of jejunum and ileum (30,8 %), mesenteric lymph nodes (15,4 %), submandibular and retropharyngeal lymph nodes and liver (7,7 %). Hyperplasia of spleen (14,3 %), liver fibrosis (8,2 %), chronic pleuritis (6,1 %), chronic perihepatitis (2,0 %), inflammation of the anterior lobes of lungs (4,1 %), hyperplasia of pulmonary, mesenteric and hepatic lymph nodes (4,1 %), hyperaemia and hyperplasia of bronchial lymph nodes (2,0 %), hyperplasia of mediastinal lymph nodes (6,1 %), purulent inflammation of superficial cervical lymph node (2,0 %) were detected after post mortem examination of cows that had no evidence of tuberculosis. It was revealed that 14,3 % of slaughtered cows had been infected with *Hypoderma bovis* and 8,2 % - with *Fasciola hepatica*. Histopathological structure of tubercles and growth of mycobacterium on *Stonebrink's* media were characteristic for *M.bovis* infection.

Keywords: cattle, tuberculosis, prevalence, Alytus and Kaunas counties.