

## AGE-RELATED MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF THYROID GLAND IN CALVES

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**Abstract.** The thyroid gland of 97 calves between 0 and 6 month old of two main breeds — Estonian Red (EP) and Estonian Holstein (EH) were investigated. Thyroid gland mass, volume, density dimensions of lobules and follicles, and the height of follicular epithelium were measured. The relationships between these parameters and the age, sex and breed of the calf were analyzed. The relationship between thyroid gland mass and histological structure was investigated. The number and localization of C cells of calves was studied. The results indicate that the growth of the thyroid gland was most intensive during the first postnatal week. There was no obvious relationship between the histological structure and mass of the thyroid gland. C cells were localized intrafollicularly (single cells) and interfollicularly.

**Keywords:** calves, thyroid gland, C cells, mass.