THE INVESTIGATIONS OF HORSES‘ CHLAMYDIOSIS IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. Chlamydia – is a group of independent intracellular microorganisms, which during the process of evolution occupied the intermediate position among rickettsia and viruses. Chlamydia do not have own energetic metabolism, so they are completely dependent on the cellular metabolism. In literature data horses‘ chlamydiosis is often refered as chlamydial abortion of mares, chlamydial bronchopneumonia of foals, chlamydial poliarthritis of foals. The first data about this infectious disease were found in 1954 when K. Sait stated that pneumonia in horses can be provoked by chlamydia, which cause the same disease in goats. The aim of this research was to study the distribution of chlamydiosis in groups of different sex, age, sport and workhorses. Serological investigations of chlamydiosis were carried out with two groups of horses: sport and workhorses. 237 samples of blood serum were analyzed in the first group of horses and 443 - in the second group. Complement conjugation reaction (CCR) with chlamydial antigene was studied in 680 samples of horses blood serum. Antichlamydial complement conjugating antibodies were found in 255 samples of blood serum (37,5%). However, it seems impossible to evaluate the distribution of chlamydiosis in Lithuania objectively, as the number of blood serum samples in different regions was different. The highest number of such cases was found in Joniskis region where 114 samples of blood serum from 331 horse studied reacted positively with chlamydial antigene in titres 1: 8 (66samples) and 1:16 (48 samples) - 34,4%. Serological investigation of other 680 horses demonstrated that antichlamydial antibodies were found in 16,7% of blood serum samples. Among the neutered horses in 71 sample from 197 were found antichlmydial complement conjugating antibodies (36,0%). 51 blood serum sample was studied in sport stud group from which 18 samples reacted positively to the chlamydial antigene (35,3%).

Key words: horses, chlamydia, prevalence, antibodies.