

THE INFLUENCE OF THE CANINE KNEE FLEXION ANGLE ON DEVELOPMENT OF OSTEOARTHRITIS AFTER CRANIAL CRUCIATE LIGAMENT RUPTURE

Valdas Vaitkus¹, Albina Aniulienė², Vidmantas Bižokas¹, Algis Noreika¹, Gintaras Zamokas¹

¹*Department of Non-Infectious Diseases, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilžės g. 18, Kaunas, Lithuania; Tel. +370 37362929; e-mail.: valdvait@lva.lt*

²*Department of Infectious Diseases, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilžės g. 18, Kaunas, Lithuania*

Summary. Rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) is the most common orthopaedic injury encountered in dogs. The majority of ruptures are of degenerative origin and development of osteoarthritis is a common finding after CCL rupture. This study was designed to perform clinical, biometrical and histological examination of the influence of canine knee flexion angle on development of osteoarthritis after CCL rupture. In accordance to the breed predisposition to have CCL rupture five dog breeds, e.g. German shepherd, English bulldog, Rotweiler, Chow-chow and American cocker spaniel were selected. In addition, the selection was based upon clinical cases and the results of respective studies. The results from clinical, biometrical and histological study indicated that canine knee flexion angle and resulting irritation of the knee joint capsule after CCL rupture significantly accelerated the onset of osteoarthritis.

Key words: knee flexion angle, cranial cruciate ligament rupture, osteoarthritis, dogs.