

THE INFLUENCE OF BACTERIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN THE ETIOLOGY OF PYOMETRA IN BITCHES

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Summary. Pyometra is a common disease among intact bitches that is characterized by bacterial contamination and accumulation of pus in the uterus, as well as systemic disorders. The goal of the study was to investigate the influence of bacteria and other factors, such as breed, age, time after the heat and season in the development of pyometra. The study was performed at the Small Animal Clinic of Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy in 2006-2007. One hundred fifty bitches of different age and breed with pyometra were examined. Microbiological tests revealed *Escherichia coli* in 107 bitches – this makes 71.3% of all cases. The average age of the bitches was 7.8 years, and the onset of disease was in average 1.1 month after oestrus ($p < 0.05$). *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was found in 12 bitches (8%), their average age was 8.9 years and the onset of the disease was 1.5 month after oestrus. Furthermore, 31 bitch (20.7%) was infected with *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus*, *Haemophilus*, *Pasteurella* strains. The average age of these bitches was 8.6 years and the onset of the disease was in average 1.2 months after oestrus. Study revealed that most frequently pyometra developed in July and in Rotweiler bitches.

Key words: pyometra, microorganisms, bitch, breed.