

SEROPREVALENCE OF CANINE *HERPES* VIRUS IN LITHUANIAN DOG POPULATION

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Abstract. Canine herpesvirus type 1 (CHV-1) is presumed to be enzootic in dogs all over the world, but no information was available regarding the seroprevalence to CHV-1 from European north-east countries. The aim of the present study is to determine seroprevalence to CHV-1 in the Lithuanian canine population. Twenty dogs from one breeding kennel and seventy three dogs from veterinary hospital were tested for antibodies to CHV-1 by ELISA. Seropositive animals were identified both in kennel dogs and household dogs (85% and 11%, respectively). However, the number of seropositive individuals among the kennel dogs was seven times higher compared to the pet group (RR=7.3, CI 2.2-23.2, P<0.001). The infection rate was significantly higher in oldest dogs group compared to young (P<0.001) and medium age (P<0.05) dogs. The health status and sex had no significant influence on serological status of the dogs (P>0.05).

Keywords: canine herpes virus, seroprevalence, Lithuania.