

## SYNOVIAL FLUID INDEX VALUE IN DOGS WITH CRANIAL CRUCIATE LIGAMENT RUPTURE

Rūta Noreikaitė-Bulotienė<sup>1</sup>, Vidmantas Bižokas<sup>1</sup>, Daiva Urbonienė<sup>2</sup>, Astra Vitkauskienė<sup>2</sup>, Valdas Vaitkus<sup>1</sup>, Juozas Kvalkauskas<sup>1</sup>, Vida Juozaitienė<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Non-Infectious Diseases, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Veterinary Academy Tilžės 18, Kaunas, Lithuania; Corresponding author, e-mail: v.bizokas@lva.lt*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Laboratory Medicine, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Medical Academy Eivenių 2, Kaunas, Lithuania;*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Veterinary Academy Tilžės 18, Kaunas, Lithuania*

**Abstract.** One of the main causes of lameness in dogs is a knee anterior cruciate ligament rupture (called cranial cruciate ligament rupture - CCLR), leading to the femoral-tibial joint instability (Johnson et al., 2001). There are some strong reasons to believe that the CCLR is a consequence of immune-mediated polyarthritis.

The aim of the study was to evaluate the joint fluid physical properties, cell number and composition in knee joints of dogs who have been diagnosed with knee anterior cruciate ligament rupture. Seventeen dogs were examined: 10 dogs with CCLR and 7 healthy control dogs.

The number of neutrophils and mononuclear cells was significantly higher in the experimental group of dogs than in the control group. Also a small amount of red blood cells in the experimental and in control groups of dogs was found, although under normal conditions it should not be the case.

The study was informative and allowed to confirm the assumption that, in most cases, CCLR is a secondary disease caused by immune-mediated arthritis.

**Keywords:** dogs, synovial fluid value, cranial cruciate ligament rupture.