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THE USE OF ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSING THE CAUSES OF HEMATOCHEZIA

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Hematochezia is the presence of blood in the stool. The reasons for the appearance of blood in the stool can be very different. Therefore, to determine the cause, it is often necessary to perform a number of additional tests, such as laboratory tests and imaging tests.

The aim of the study was to use endoscopic examination of the rectum and colon to diagnose the causes of blood in the stool in dogs.

The study was conducted on 30 dogs of various breeds, both sexes, ranging in size from 1 to 12 years of age, who were referred for endoscopic examination due to the presence of blood in their faeces. Before endoscopic examination, all dogs underwent clinical examination, blood tests, faecal parasitological examination, abdominal ultrasound examination and rectal examination. Endoscopic examination was performed under general anesthesia after a 48-hour fast and a 6-hour break in water administration immediately before the examination. Additionally, on the day preceding the examination, 3 enemas were performed. Endoscopic examinations were performed with the Olympus PCF-PH190I videoendoscope and the Olympus PCF-GIF-XP190N videoendoscope. During the endoscopic examination, the appearance of the rectal and colon mucosa was assessed, and specimens were taken for histopathological examination with biopsy forceps. The collected sections were placed in a buffered 7% formalin solution. During endoscopic examination and histopathological examination, inflammatory changes were assessed on a four-level scale: no changes (-), slightly increased inflammatory changes (+), moderately intense inflammatory changes (++), and significantly increased inflammatory changes (+++).

During endoscopic examination of the rectum and colon, inflammatory changes

were found in all dogs. In the colon, inflammatory changes of a slight degree were found in 5 dogs, moderate degree - in 14 dogs, and significant degree - in 11 dogs. In the rectum, inflammatory changes of a slight degree were found in 4 dogs, moderate degree - in 10 dogs, and significant degree - in 16 dogs. Additionally, rectal proliferative changes were found in 15 dogs.

On the basis of histopathological examination, inflammatory changes in the rectum and colon were found in all dogs. The inflammatory changes in the colon were found to be mild in 2 dogs, moderate in 13 dogs, and significant in 15 dogs. Rectal inflammation was found to be mild in 2 dogs, moderate in 13 dogs, and significant in 15 dogs. In addition, the histopathological examination of the proliferative changes revealed cancerous changes in 1 dog, and inflammatory polyps in 14 dogs. In 2 dogs with an inflammatory polyp, some of the epithelial cells showed strong metaplasia in some places, progressing to dysplasia.

On the basis of the conducted research, it was found that the cause of hematochezia may be inflammatory lesions of various etiologies and neoplastic lesions. Endoscopic examination allows for the assessment of the type of lesions, size of lesions, their location, and the taking of specimens for histopathological examination. Histopathological examination is necessary to confirm inflammatory lesions identified during endoscopic examination and to distinguish inflammatory lesions from neoplastic lesions.