

Determination and diagnostic value of faecal pancreatic elastase in dogs

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The determination of faecal pancreatic elastase 1 is a reliable test for the diagnosis of chronic pancreatic diseases in man due to its high sensitivity and specificity (93%). A clinical study was performed to investigate the detectability of canine faecal pancreatic elastase with polyclonal anti human pancreatic elastase 1 antibodies in 52 dogs with chronic diarrhoea and weight loss. To assess the diagnostic value of this parameter for the diagnosis of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) in dogs faecal chymotrypsin activity was determined and serum trypsin-like immunoreactivity (TLI) concentration was measured within the Ceruletid test in all patients. The study revealed that canine faecal pancreatic elastase cross reacts with polyclonal anti human pancreatic elastase 1 antibodies. In comparison with the results of the other pancreas tests it was proved that the concentration of canine faecal pancreatic elastase determined by rocket immunoelectrophoresis is highly sensitive for EPI in dogs (sensitivity 100%) but there are species differences in specificity between man and dog (specificity 56,5%).

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