Endoscopic examination of the urethra and the urinary bladder in dogs – indications, contraindications and performance technique

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Abstract

This paper discusses indications, contraindications, and likely complications following the endoscopic examination of the urethra and the urinary bladder in dogs. In addition, the procedure performance techniques and evaluation of the particular sections of the lower urinary tract are presented as well as the equipment used for the urethrocytostoscopy.

Key words: urethroscopy, cystoscopy, dog

Introduction

Lower urinary tract diseases are a frequent problem in dogs. A clinical examination and such common diagnostic examinations as a blood count test, physicochemical examination of urine and urine sediment, microbiological examination of urine, and X-ray and ultrasound examination of the abdominal cavity do not always allow an ultimate diagnosis (Cannizzo et al. 2001). Endoscopic examination of the urethra and urinary bladder is a useful diagnostic technique which is more and more frequently used for diagnosing diseases of these organs. It enables evaluation of the inside of the organ as well as precise collection of material for further examination (Cannizzo et al. 2001, Henry 2003, Crow 2008).

Indications for endoscopic examination of the lower urinary tract

The most frequent indications for the endoscopic examination of the urethra and urinary bladder are as follows: urinary incontinence, pollakiuria, haematuria, painful urination, recurrent urinary tract infections, suspicion of urethrostenois, chronic inflammations of the urinary bladder, suspicion of cystolithiasis, suspicion of ectopic ureters, suspicion of bladder diverticula, injuries of the urethra and urinary bladder, bleeding from the urogenital system unassociated with urination, suspicion of neoplasm tumours, polyps and cysts (Nicpoon and Kubiak 2000, Sapierzyński 2000, Cannizzo et al. 2001, Patrick et al. 2006, Holak et al. 2007, Crow 2008).