**ABSTRACT**

Title: CANINE IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH HERPES VIRUS INFECTION

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Purpose of the study: An association between gammaherpesvirus infection and pulmonary fibrotic disorders has been suggested in humans, horses and rodents. In dogs, canine idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (CIPF), a fibrotic lung disease of unknown origin and poorly understood pathophysiology, occurs principally in West Highland white terriers (WHWTs) at an advanced age. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to investigate the potential association between herpesvirus infection and CIPF.

Methods used: Pan-herpesvirus PCR assays, using either degenerate or deoxyinosine-substituted primers targeting highly conserved regions of the DNA polymerase gene (DPOL) of herpesviruses was used on lung samples issued from WHWTs affected with CIPF (n = 28) and controls (n = 18) in a nested format. DNA of gammaherpesvirus-positive murine (Murid herpesvirus-4) and bovine (Bovine herpesvirus-4) spleen samples were included as positive controls. Water samples were tested as negative controls.

Summary of the results: Herpes virus DPOL sequence could not be amplified from the 46 lung samples included.

Conclusions: An association between herpes virus infection and CIPF is unlikely. Investigation of other etiologic agents is warranted.