First documented report of CHV-1 infection of a pregnant bitch in Greece.

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Canine herpesvirus (CHV-1) infection can cause acute neonatal viremia followed by puppy mortality, systemic viremia in pregnant females (resulting in fetal death, abortion, and mummification) and ocular/respiratory disease in dogs of various ages\textsuperscript{1}. In the adults CHV-1 infection is usually asymptomatic. The disease is endemic in central Europe and, to the author’s knowledge, has never been reported in Greece. This study presents the first case of CHV-1 infection of a pregnant bitch in Greece. A 3 years old, healthy and vaccinated Rottweiler bitch, was mated with a stud of the same breed from Germany. On the 25th day of pregnancy (day 0, the day of LH peak) the bitch underwent sonographic examination. At least 8 normal embryos were imaged. Parturition occurred on day 64: 4 alive and 2 dead puppies were delivered. Another neonate died on the 3\textsuperscript{rd} day postpartum and necropsy was performed. Selected organs and tissues underwent further histopathological examination. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was also performed in order to investigate the presence of CHV-1. Cerebellar hypoplasia, diffuse and non-suppurative encephalitis, chronic interstitial pneumonia and microhemorrhages in the lungs and liver were observed. CHV-1 DNA was detected in a variety of cell types by PCR. The pathological findings along with history, clinical and laboratory findings confirmed CHV-1 fetal infection. This is the first case that the presence of CHV-1 has been identified in newborns and correlated with reproduction problems in Greece. Nevertheless, this case might be the tip of the iceberg and might not be the first CHV-1 dog infection occurring in Greece. The mission of this first documented case is to induce practitioners to include CHV-1 in the differential diagnosis of cases of late stage abortions, stillbirths and sudden deaths of puppies up to 4 weeks of age, with the aim of limiting the potential diffusion in Greece.

\textsuperscript{1}Evermann JF, Ledbetter EC, Maes RK. Canine reproductive, respiratory, and ocular diseases due to canine herpesvirus. Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.2011;41:1097-120.