

S t a n d p o i n t

By Professor Dr. Dimitar Savov Dimitrov, DVM, Ph.D. – retired from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Trakia University, Stara Zagora, on a Ph.D. Dissertation project with thematic focus „Morphological studies of the spleen in the dog" by Master of Veterinary Medicine Ilian Stefanov Georgiev, with scientific supervisor Associate Professor Ph.D. Georgi Ivanov Georgiev.

This standpoint is in compliance with Order No. ZPS – 365 / 03.07.2023 of the Rector of University of Forestry Sofia, as well as the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury held on July 06, 2023.

On the basis of a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Protocol 45 / 29.06. 2023) and a report by the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, art. 4 and art. 35, paragraph 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff (RDAS) at the University of Forestry, a decision has been made to conduct a procedure for the public defense of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree (ESD) "Ph.D." in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Morphology", on the topic "Morphological studies of the spleen in the dog", developed by Master of Veterinary Medicine Ilian Stefanov Georgiev, with scientific consultant Associate Professor Ph.D. Georgi Ivanov Georgiev.

According to the electronic information provided to me, Ph.D. student Ilian Stefanov Georgiev was born on March 18, 1993. From September 2012 to February 2018, he was a student at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Forestry at Sofia and graduated as a Master of Veterinary Medicine. His working experience is relatively short and includes two main periods. From 01.06.2017 to 15.04.2018 he worked as an organizer of the educational process in the Department of "Anatomy, Histology and Physiology" of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia. Later, from 16.04.2018 until 30.09.2019, he held the position of veterinarian-internist at the in the Educational and Experimental Farm "Vrajdebna", where his main activities and responsibilities are health care and animal welfare Since then, until now, he has been part of the team conducting training in Bulgarian and English with the students of several courses studying Macromorphology under the mandatory curricula. The dissertation student of independent preparation, but dismissed with the right of defense, states in the provided documents that he speaks English at level A2. As computer skills, he presents his work with the computer programs Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint. He also holds a category B motor vehicle driving license.

The dissertation has a volume of 166 computer-generated one-sided pages, in A4 format. It includes: title page and table of contents - with a volume of 3 pages; Introduction - 2 pages.; Literature review - 37 pages; Purpose and tasks - 1.5 pages; Materials and research methods used - 14.5 pages; Results of the conducted scientific research and their discussion - 77 pages; Conclusions - 2.5 pages; Contributions of the dissertation work - 2 pages; Recommendations for practice - 2.5 pages; The literature used to prepare the literature review of the dissertation and to carry out the scientific research is placed on 16 pages and contains 142 titles (30 of them in Cyrillic and 112 in Latin); List of scientific publications related to the dissertation - 1 page; Acknowledgments of the author - 2 pages; Summary in Bulgarian and English - 3 pages.

My detailed and repeated familiarization with the information provided, noted by me before, convinced me that the dissertation has architectonics, includes in itself the mandatory elements according to the legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria in a dissertation worthy of respect. I would like to add that this dissertation has one real merit - its illustrativeness, which is mandatory for established morphological data reaching the public. I believe that it is possible because of the rich palette, both from those that have become classics, and from the presence of truly modern research methods; photo documentation of high-quality illuminated anatomical preparations; a large number of photomicrographs of histosections, which faithfully illustrate the verbal descriptions; computed tomography scanograms; contrast-enhanced ultrasonograms; conventional ultrasonograms of abdominal organs and color Doppler ultrasonography. The aim of the present scientific research is not only very ambitious, but also having in itself the aspiration to clarify ambiguities in the fundamental research and clinical needs of humanity, in order to establish the anatomical-topographical location of the spleen and its arteries and veins and their branches, the terminal vascular bed in the parenchyma of the organ at the microscopic level in the dog and their visualization by computed tomography and ultrasonography, as well as changes in the size and histostructure of the spleen when using different types of anesthesia protocols For the realization of this multi-directional and difficult to achieve goal, 5 main tasks have been formulated. The repeated reading of the dissertation convinced me with its results that the goal was achieved and the tasks were performed conscientiously and at a scientific level.

In conclusion, I believe that the dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and they meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff (LDAS) in the Republic of Bulgaria and its Regulations for Application in University of Forestry, Sofia.

The dissertation shows that Ilian Stefanov Georgiev has in-depth theoretical knowledge, the ability to analyze and apply it, professional skills in the scientific specialty "Morphology", as demonstrates qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted scientific research, after my extensive familiarization with the dissertation project and the auto-abstract to it. I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury **to award the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D." to Ilian Stefanov Georgiev** in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, in the doctoral program "Morphology".

Stara Zagora
July 17, 2023

Reviewer: 
(Professor Dimitar S. Dimitrov – DVM, Ph.D.)