



Based on recent emerging doubts about the significant prevalence/impact of mitral valve disease (MDV) in the Cirneco breed, we would like to clarify some concepts discussed in our phd thesis performed in the University of Milan ("Cardiovascular proteomics and mitral valve disease in dogs: searching for a serological biomarker").

First of all the study was conducted in a very small group of dogs (n° cirneco dogs = 12) and it was a not random enrollment: we recruited intentionally dogs with different degree of MVD, including dogs with severe disease.

Furthermore, we would like to point out the attention on the age of the dogs with MVD: dogs with mild MVD were adult/senior dogs (mean age of 10.6 years) while severe affected dogs were only very senior dogs (mean age of 13.5 years). For these reasons, MVD is, as in most canine breeds a condition that could occur in old dogs ("cardiac aging"). Very different is the condition of some breed as the Cavalier King Charles sp where the MVD onset occurs often in very young subjects: in this breed screening breeding programs (for MVD) are recommended. In Italy the FSA (fondazione Salute Animale) recommended only for Cavalier King Charles sp screening program for MVD; in the Cirneco breed screening program for MVD is not recommended.

We apologize if our work may have generated doubts about this breed: in our opinion CIRNECO DELL'ETNA is an Italian breed with a long life expectancy.

Milan, 1 April 2016

Proff. P. G. Brambilla
Dr. G. Riscazzi