The Gross and Histological Study of the Female Reproductive Tract of Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Boon Allwin¹, P.A. Kalaignan², M.G. Jayathangaraj³, Geetha Ramesh⁴, T.A Kannan⁵, S.Balasubramanian⁶, U.S Kalyaan⁷ and R. Gnanadevi⁸

¹Ph.D, Scholar, Department of Wildlife Science, ²Zoo veterinarian, Bannerghatta rescue centre, Karnataka, ³Professor and Head, Department of Wildlife Science, ⁴Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Histology, ⁵Professor, Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Histology, ⁶Professor, Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, ⁷M.V.Sc., Scholar, Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, ⁸M.V.Sc., Scholar, Department of Veterinary Anatomy and and Histology, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai- 600 007

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Tamil Nadu

The female reproductive tract includes the egg-producing unit, the ovary, and a long tube through which the discharged ova must travel and in which fertilization takes place, the oviduct. This latter organ can be subdivided into different regions, all of which are physically continuous. The oviduct leads to the uterus, the organ peculiar to Eutherian mammals. It’s in the uterus that gestation of the fetus occurs. The gross and histological appearances of the female reproductive tract of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) which is a wild feline were examined. Felines are seasonally polyestrict and are induced ovulators. In this study the ovaries, oviduct, uterus, cervix, vagina were systematically studied using standard anatomical procedures. The ovaries are oval structure located in the dorsal abdomen caudal to the kidneys. The ovary, the oviduct and the uterus are suspended by the broad ligament which is subdivided into the suspensory ligament of the ovary, the mesovarium, the mesosalpinx and the mesometrium. The infundibulum which is the cranial end of the oviduct is a conical enlargement and lays cranio-medial to the ovary. The uterus of the leopard is Y-shaped organ consisting of a body and the uterine horns extend cranially to meet the oviduct. The cervix is thick-walled neck of the uterus connecting it to the vagina and protrudes in to vagina ventrocaudally. The vagina extends caudally from the cervix. The histological findings will be discussed.

e-mail: gnanadevi1990@gmail.com