

Supplementary information

Dogs were subcutaneously inoculated with TBEV at 10^8 PFU/per dog (high-dose group, n=2, *blue circles*), TBEV at 10^6 PFU/per dog (low-dose group, n=2, *red squares*), and no TBEV (control, n=2, *green triangles*). Blood samples were collected daily on days 0-8, then on days 10, 12, 14, 21, and 28 p.i. Animals were euthanised at 28 p.i. Blood samples were tested with an automated haematology analyser, Celltac Alfa (Nihon Kohden). Sera prepared from the blood samples were analysed with an automated biochemistry analyser (Cobas 6000 C501; Roche).

WBC, white blood cells; **EO**, eosinophils; **RBC**, red blood cell count; **HGB**, haemoglobin; **HCT**, haematocrit; **MCV**, mean corpuscular volume; **MCH**, mean corpuscular haemoglobin; **MCHC**, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration; **LY**, lymphocytes; **MO**, monocytes; **GR**, granulocytes; **RDW**, red cell distribution width; **PCT**, procalcitonin test; **MPV**, mean platelet volume; **PDW**, platelet distribution width; **PLT**, platelets; **ALT**, alanine aminotransferase.

Levels of bilirubin and gamma-glutamyl transferase in all dogs investigated (infected or controls) were under the detection limit of the assays.

Dashed lines indicate the upper and lower limits for the healthy condition.



















