Reviewer's report

Title: Immunohistochemical expression of Heat Shock Proteins in canine malignant mammary tumours

Version: 3 Date: 13 June 2006

Reviewer: Juana Martin de las Mulas

Reviewer's report:

General
The original manuscript signed by Romanucci and colleagues has been now revised addressing the main concern I had (the combined histologic classification and staging method of the tumours were not correct). The authors have now classified canine mammary tumours according to the WHO classification they originally said they had used (Misdorp et al 1999), and the staging according to Gilbertson et al (1983) is correct. However, I must say I still feel somehow unhappy with the group of stage 0 tumours because I am very much aware of how difficult it is to identify (or deny) stromal invasion in Haematoxylin and eosin-stained tissue sections.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The identification of stromal invasion should be based in the use of myoepithelial cell markers.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have not competing interests.