

TICKS AND TICK BORNE DISEASES

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LONE STAR TICK

EHRlichia

RASH INFECTION SIMILAR TO LYME DISEASE

EHRlichia CANUS

FOUND WORLD WIDE AND IS CAUSED BY THE BROWN DOG TICK AND THE LONE STAR TICK

THIS IS MOST COMMON AND THE MOST DANGEROUS TICK-BORNE DISEASE ORGANISMS KNOW TO INFECT DOG. A LOT OF TICK BORNE DISEASES (TBD) FOLLOW ITS GENERAL PATTERN.

IT IS A PARASITIC BACTERIA AND GROW INSIDE THE WBC'S. THIS BACTERIA IS MANUFACTURED IN THE BONE MARROW. IT CRIPPLES THE ABILITY OF THE WBC'S TO GROW AND THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IS DESTROYED. THE LIST OF SYMPTOMS & CONDITIONS CAUSED BY *EHRlichia* CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR OR CAUSE LEUKEMIA, HEART DISEASE, CANCER OF THE SPLEEN, THE BRAIN & OTHER ORGANS.

THE SYMPTOMS CAN BE VAGUE AND ATTRIBUTED TO A MILD VIRAL INFECTION, IF HIS LYMPH GLANDS ARE SWOLLEN & HE JUST DOESN'T FEEL GOOD. A VET WOULD FIND SIGNS OF EARLY TBD; ENLARGED SPLEEN, ABNORMAL DECREASE IN PLATELETS, DECREASE IN WBC'S. TO MAKE DIAGNOSIS WORSE, THE WBC'S CAN BE HIGH.

TESTING FOR TBD IS USELESS FOR 2-3 WEEKS AS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM WILL HAVE HAD TIME TO MAKE THE ANTIBODIES THAT REGISTER. HOWEVER THERE ARE TESTS THAT ARE USED AFTER THAT TIME.

DIAGNOSIS IS MADE BY A VET'S KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE OF THE TBD AND THAT CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

THIS IS THE INITIAL OR ACUTE STAGE. IF THE DOG IS UNABLE TO THROW OFF DISEASE BY HIMSELF, THE DISEASE PASSES INTO THE SUBCLINICAL STAGE –NO OUTWARD SYMPTOMS, HIDES IN THE SPLEEN AND THE DOG BECOMES A CARRIER. THE DOG CAN REMAIN IN THIS STAGE FROM MONTHS TO YEARS UNTIL ANOTHER INFECTION/STRESS CAUSES THE DOG TO GO INTO THE CHRONIC STAGE.

IN THE CHRONIC STAGE THE PROGNOSIS FOR RECOVERY IS POOR & DEATH CAN COME WITH SHOCKING SUDDENNESS FROM HEMORRHAGE, MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE.

GERMAN SHEPHERDS HAVE A DEPRESSED IMMUNE SYSTEM TO THE DISEASE. FOR GSD'S PROMPT, EARLY DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF THE DISEASE IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL.



BLACK LEGGED DEER TICK

LYME DISEASE

LYME DISEASE CAUSED BY THE TINY DEER TICK. IT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SESAME SEED.

LYME DISEASE IS NOT AS DESTRUCTIVE AS MANY OF THE OTHER TICK DISEASES. ACTIVE LYME DISEASE MAY CAUSE CRIPPLING ARTHRITIS, BUT IT DOESN'T KILL. THERE IS A CHANCE THAT IT CAN CAUSE LYME NEPHRITIS (INFLAMMATION OF THE KIDNEYS). THE END RESULT IS RENAL FAILURE.

IN MOST CASES, THE SYMPTOMS CAN APPEAR 4-5 MONTHS *AFTER* A DOG IS EXPOSED TO A TICK BITE. SYMPTOMS ARE NOT SEVERE & WILL RESPOND TO ANTIBIOTICS. THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOM IS ARTHRITIS & JOINT SWELLING. OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, APPETITE LOSS, LYMPH NODES SWELLING, REDUCED ACTIVITY AND DEHYDRATION.

TICKS THAT ARE INFECTED FALL OFF DEER AND ATTACH THEMSELVES TO YOUR DOG.

THE DRUG OF CHOICE FOR ALL TBD IS DOXYCYCLINE WITH TETRACYCLINE AS AN ALTERNATIVE DRUG.

THERE ARE 3 TESTS TO CHECK FOR MOST TBD. A POSITIVE TEST DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR DOG ACTUALLY HAS THE DISEASE, BUT HAS BEEN EXPOSED. A VET HAS TO CHECK OTHER CLINICAL SYMPTOMS EI: ARTHRITIS TO CONFIRM THE DIAGNOSIS.



BROWN DOG TICK

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER IS FOUND ALL OVER THE US. IT IS BACTERIA CALLED **RICKETTSIA**. RMSF IS CAUSED BY THE AMERICAN DOG TICK, THE WOOD TICK, AND THE BROWN DOG TICK.

IT IS AN ACUTE DISEASE WHICH HAS NO PROGRESSIVE STAGES. DOGS ARE IN CONSIDERABLE PAIN FROM THE INFECTION AND MAY BE UNABLE TO KEEP HIS BALANCE; HE MAY HOLD HIS HEAD AT A TILT, ACT AS IF HE IS ONLY HALF CONSCIOUS, SUFFER SEIZURES OR GO INTO A COMA. WITHOUT TREATMENT, HE WILL EITHER GET WELL IN 2 WEEKS OR DIE.

BECAUSE OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS DISEASE CAN KILL, CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE MUCH HIGHER IF THE DOG IS TREATED WITH DOXYCYCLINE *IMMEDIATELY WHEN THE DISEASE IS SUSPECTED WITHOUT WAITING FOR TEST RESULTS*. A PAIR OF TESTS IS RUN TO CONFIRM A DIAGNOSIS, THE 2ND IN 21 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST. IF 2ND TITER IS 4X GREATER THAN THE FIRST, THEN THE DIAGNOSIS IS ROCK SOLID.

DOGS THAT SURVIVE BECOME IMMUNE TO ANY FURTHER INFECTION WITH RMSF

TICK PARALYSIS

TICK PARALYSIS IS CAUSED BY A PREGNANT FEMALE TICK (NOT ANY PARTICULAR KIND OF TICK) WHO BURROWS HER MOUTH INTO THE DOG. SHE TRANSMITS NEUROTOXINS THRU THE SALIVA SHE INJECTS INTO THE DOG.

THE SIGNS OF PARALYSIS GENERALLY START 5-7 DAYS AFTER THE TICK STARTS FEEDING. PARALYSIS OCCURS IN 24-72 HOURS. DEATH OCCURS FROM RESPIRATORY FAILURE IN 5% OF DOGS WITHIN 1-5 DAYS

THE ONSET OF SIGNS IS SUDDEN & INCLUDES DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR BARKING, REAR END WEAKNESS AND STAGGERING, STARTING WITH THE HIND LEGS. THE PARALYSIS MOVES RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE HEAD. THE DOG WILL SOON BE UNABLE TO MOVE, STAND, SIT, OR LIFT HIS HEAD. IF THE TICK IS FOUND AND REMOVED IN TIME, IMPROVEMENT IS GENERALLY SEEN WITH 24 HRS. IF THE TICK IS NOT FOUND AND REMOVED SOON ENOUGH, THE OUTLOOK IS GENERALLY DEATH. NO MATTER WHAT THE PROBABILITY OF TICK PARALYSIS MIGHT BE, DOG OWNERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF HOW IT OPERATES AS THE OUTCOME CAN BE SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH DUE TO RESPIRATORY FAILURE.

THE TREATMENT FOR TICK PARALYSIS IS BASIC---REMOVE THE TICK!! THERE ARE NO BLOOD TESTS TO DIAGNOSE THE DISEASE.

TICKS CAN BE CARRIERS FOR MORE THAN ONE TBD.

Tick Removal

REMOVAL OF TICKS IS VERY IMPORTANT. AS SOON AS YOU SEE A TICK, GRAB IT WITH TWEEZERS, A NEEDLE NOSE PLIERS OR FORCEPS. PUTTING A DISH LIQUID ON IT, AND OTHER METHODS, GENERALLY DON'T WORK. TICKS ONLY TAKE 1-2 BREATHS AN HOUR. SO THE LIQUID WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO KILL THE TICK. AFTER REMOVING THE TICK PUT IT IN IVORY SOLUTION. IF THE DOG IS COVERED WITH TINY TICKS, BATHE DOG WITH IVORY DISHWASHING LIQUID. WORK UP GOOD LATHER, LEAVE ON 15 MIN. AND RINSE THOROUGHLY.

THE KEY TO CURING ALL TBD IS EARLY DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT. AND REMOVING THE TICK!!

MANY VETS REFUSE TO CONSIDER TBD AS A POSSIBILITY OF A PROBLEM WITH THE DOG AND SAY "IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE". THAT ATTITUDE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE DOG. DOGS TRAVEL WITH THEIR OWNERS AND CAN PICK UP THE TICKS ANYWHERE. BE SURE TO TELL YOUR VET IF YOU HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE AREA WITH YOUR DOG. SOME VETERINARIANS ARE HANDICAPPED BY THEIR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. THEY WILL TREAT FOR WHAT THEY THINK IS WRONG AND NOT FOR WHAT IS THE DOG'S PROBLEM. THEY WILL SEND OWNER TO NUMEROUS SPECIALISTS. THIS COULD BE TOO LATE FOR THE DOG. ALL THAT WAS NEEDED WAS A TICK PANEL. YOU DO NOT HAVE TIME WHEN DEALING WITH A TICK BORNE DISEASE.