

Ehrlichiosis

Protect your dog

Ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne dog disease, has been detected in the Northern Territory and is present in all areas, including Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and remote communities.

Ehrlichiosis is a bacterial disease spread by the brown dog tick. Once the disease is in the brown dog tick population it's very difficult to control.

Prevention is the best protection as vaccinations are not available.

Protect your dog from ehrlichiosis

- Have your dogs on a tick control program. Tick collars and spot-ons are the best primary protection used in combination with tablets and chews registered for tick control.
- Ensure any tick infestations in the house yard are managed by a pest controller.
- Avoid taking your dogs into tick-infested areas.

Inspect your dogs daily for ticks

- Run your fingers through your pet's coat, feeling for ticks that may be attached to the skin.
- Pay attention to the head, neck and ears, chest, between their toes and around their mouths and gums.
- Remove ticks carefully using a tick remover such as fine tipped forceps or your fingertips, grabbing it as close to the skin as possible, avoiding squeezing the body of the tick.
- Kill the tick by putting it in alcohol, into a sealed container and then into the rubbish.

Prevent ticks from biting your dog

- Use a tick control product which repels ticks, such as a tick collar or spot-on. Products which rely on the tick biting the dog to work may not prevent ehrlichiosis. Ask your vet for advice about which product best suits your needs.
- Controlling ticks in your environment is critical. Ticks can live in cracks and crevices around your house and yard, around kennels, and inside skirting boards, window and door frames and can survive for many months without feeding. Speak with a professional pest controller about treating your home.

Travelling or boarding your dog?

Before hitting the road:

- Check in with your vet to assess disease prevention requirements such as vaccination, worming, tick and flea control, heartworm preventive.
- When travelling avoid contact with other dogs when stopping, such as at fuel stations, truck stops or caravan parks, to avoid transfer of infected ticks between dogs.

Ehrlichiosis

It is important to seek veterinary advice and treatment as ehrlichiosis can resemble other tick-borne dog diseases. Early treatment provides the best chance of recovery.

If you suspect your dog is showing signs of the disease, consult your local vet for further advice about diagnosis and treatment.

More information about ehrlichiosis can be found at nt.gov.au/ehrlichiosis

- When boarding your dog, make sure their tick, flea and worming prevention and vaccinations are up to date. Check with your local boarding kennel on mandatory disease prevention requirements.

Look out for the signs

- fever
- lethargy
- loss of appetite
- weight loss
- swelling of the chest or front legs
- cloudy eyes or conjunctivitis
- pain and stiffness
- bleeding disorders such as nosebleeds or bruising on the gums or belly.

