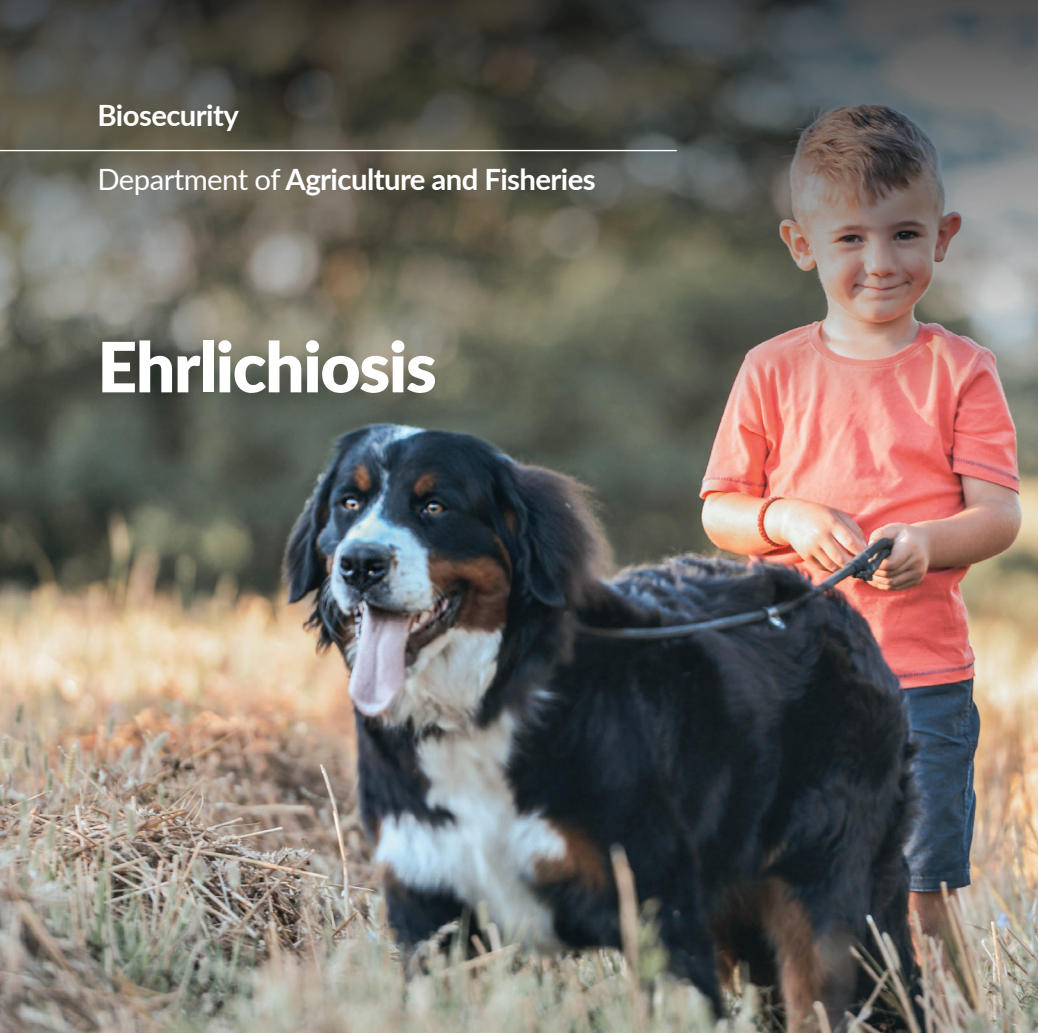


Ehrlichiosis



Treatment for 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. If your dog has been diagnosed with ehrlichiosis, it is important that you follow some simple measures to protect the health of your dog and your community.

Treatment Plan

- Follow the ehrlichiosis treatment plan recommended by your vet.
- Complete the long course of antibiotics prescribed by your vet.

Early antibiotic treatment provides the best chance of recovery. In some cases very sick dogs may need supportive care and hospitalisation.

Tick prevention program

- 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. Treat all the dogs at the same time.

Talk to your vet about which product is best suited your needs.

You should always:

- follow label instructions
- provide regular treatments on time - a reminder in your phone can help!

Check your dog for ticks

- Regularly check your dogs for ticks.
- Run your fingers through your pet's coat, feeling for ticks that may be attached to the skin. Pay particular attention to the head, neck and ears, chest, between their toes and around their mouths and gums.
- Kill the tick by putting it in alcohol, into a sealed container and then into the rubbish.

Treating your environment

- Speak with a professional pest controller about treating your home environment to break the cycle of infection.

Ticks can live in cracks and crevices around your house and yard, around kennels, and inside skirting boards, window and door frames where they can survive for many months without feeding.

Ticks that feed on an infected dog can go on to infect other dogs. Controlling ticks in your environment is important to break the transmission cycle of the disease.

Don't move your dog

- Don't move your dog away from your hometown or community until it is recovered, as this could spread disease to other areas.
- If you need to move your dog(s), wait until its treatment is finished. Contact your vet to check your dog is healthy and ensure your tick control treatment is current.

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

Look out for the signs

- If any other dogs become unwell, especially with fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, weight loss, cloudy eyes or conjunctivitis, pain and stiffness, bleeding disorders such as nosebleeds or bruising on the gums or belly, contact your vet immediately so they can be checked for ehrlichiosis.

Human health

- The disease cannot be directly passed from infected dogs to humans.
- In extremely rare cases, ticks infected with *Ehrlichia canis* may infect people. Human ehrlichiosis is almost always caused by species other than *Ehrlichia canis* and these species have not yet been found in Australia.
- For information on human health implications associated with ticks, as well as prevention, removal and first aid advice see ww2.health.wa.gov.au/en/Articles/S T /Ticks

