

TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Babesiosis (Piroplasmosis)

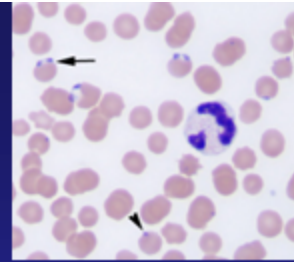


Protozoa, those tiny single celled animal-like organisms, are to blame when dogs and cats are diagnosed with [babesiosis](#). Ticks transmit the protozoan organism to animals and it sets itself up in the red blood cells, causing anaemia.

Clinical Signs:

- Severe, including pale gums
- Depression
- Dark-coloured urine
- Fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- In severe cases, the dog may collapse suddenly and go into shock.

Babesia - Clinical signs



Acute Disease:

- Fever, anemia, icterus, splenomegaly, hemoglobinuria, azotemia, acidosis
- Low numbers of organisms (< 1% of RBC have parasites) are found, even in the acute phase
- Parasitemia is transient at 3-4 days, reappears at 10 days and peaks at 3 weeks.

Chronic Disease:

- Immunity (premunition) leads to a balance of the parasite and host immunity
- Organisms are rarely seen in blood in chronic infections
- Stress may lead to recrudescence and sporadic episodes of hemolytic crisis (eg. Pregnancy may activate infection → Transplacental transmission to pups)
- Adult dogs and previously affected dogs are typically asymptomatic, chronic carriers.

Treatment:

- Imidocarb dipropionate – dose 6mg/kg IM, twice at 14 day intervals
- Further details see website

Anaplasmosis



Deer ticks and western black-legged ticks carry the bacteria that transmit canine anaplasmosis. Another form of anaplasmosis (caused by a different bacteria) is carried by the brown dog tick. Both dogs and cats are at risk for this condition.

Clinical Signs

- Similar to ehrlichiosis
- Pain in the joints
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Possible nervous system disorders
- Pets will usually begin to show signs of disease within a couple weeks after infection.

Treatment

- Depending on the severity of the infection, oral antibiotics are given for up to a month for treatment.
- Doxycycline – 5-10mg/kg every 12-24 hours for 28 days

Ehrlichiosis



Ehrlichiosis is transmitted to dogs by the brown dog tick and the Lone Star Tick.

Clinical Signs:

- Appear less than a month after a tick bite
- Depression
- Reduced appetite (anorexia)
- Fever
- Stiff and painful joints
- Bruising

Treatment

- Antibiotics are usually given for up to four weeks to completely clear the organism. There is no vaccine available for ehrlichiosis.
- Doxycycline – 5-10mg/kg every 12-24 hours for 28 days