

Canine Vector-borne Disease

YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CANINE PARASITIC DISEASES



For more information about the health of your dog, go to dogsandticks.com



	Lyme disease	Anaplasmosis	Ehrlichiosis	Heartworm disease
Parasite	Deer tick or black-legged tick (<i>Ixodes</i> spp.) carries bacteria and bites dogs, spreading infection		Brown dog tick (<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>) carries bacteria and bites dog, spreading infection	Mosquito transfers worm larvae from infected dog to your dog; larvae develop into worms that live in the heart and its vessels
Most common signs of infection	Silent infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lameness • Fever • Swollen joints • Kidney failure • "Not himself/herself" • Anorexia 	Silent infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of energy • High fever • Swollen, very painful joints • Loss of appetite • Vomiting • Diarrhea 	From mild to severe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of appetite • Depression • Fever • Painful joints • Bloody nose • Pale gums 	No sign at first, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild, persistent cough • Reluctance to move or exercise • Tiredness after moderate exercise • Reduced appetite • Weight loss
Disease progression if left untreated	Damaged joints, fatal kidney disease (rare)	Very low numbers of platelets and white blood cells, chronic joint pain, neurological signs (rare)	Permanent blindness, autoimmune diseases, bleeding complications, death	Heart failure, lung disease, sudden death
Coinfection	Coinfection with Lyme disease and anaplasmosis is possible. In addition, it's possible for your dog to become infected with any combination of parasitic diseases—including those not listed here.			
Diagnosis	Simple blood test: SNAP® 4Dx® Test (can detect four infections in one blood sample in less than 10 minutes) Other tests: Complete blood count, chemistry profile, urinalysis, other special tests, depending on initial findings and clinical signs			
Treatment	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Adulticides (kills adult heartworms), melarsomine(Immiticide®) <small>Source: American Heartworm Society</small>
Prognosis	If caught and treated early, the outcome is usually very good for a full recovery from symptoms. Some of these infections cannot be cured completely, but early intervention usually provides the best prognosis.			
Vaccine available?	Yes	No	No	No
Other prevention	Daily tick inspection and removal, and the use of topicals and other veterinarian-dispensed products			Heartworm pills and topical preventatives (typically monthly)

IMPORTANT: No prevention is 100% effective. Test your dog every year.