

# Ehrlichiosis



## Protect your dog

Ehrlichiosis, an exotic tick-borne dog disease, has been confirmed in a small number of dogs in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Ehrlichiosis has not been previously detected in Australia and is spread by the brown dog tick. Once the disease is in the brown dog tick population it's very difficult to control, particularly in the tropical and subtropical regions. Prevention is the best protection as vaccinations are not available.

### Protect your dog from ehrlichiosis

- Have your dogs on a tick control program.
- Ensure any tick infestations in the house yard are managed by a pest controller.
- Avoid taking your dogs into tick-infested areas.
- Take particular care when bush-walking with your dog.
- Inspect your dogs daily for ticks, especially if they have been in a tick-infested areas.
- Contact your vet if you find ticks on your dog and recognise any signs of ehrlichiosis.
- Be on the lookout for signs of ehrlichiosis, such as fever, lethargy and appetite loss.

### Symptoms can include:

- fever
- lethargy
- loss of appetite
- weight loss
- cloudy or sore eyes
- pain and stiffness
- bleeding disorders.

It's important to seek veterinary advice and treatment as ehrlichiosis can resemble other tick-borne dog diseases already present in the NT. If you suspect your dog is showing signs of the disease, report it your local vet.

**If it looks suss, call us 1800 675 888.**

### Travelling with your dog?

This can increase their exposure to infectious diseases they wouldn't normally encounter. Before hitting the road:

- check in with your vet to assess disease prevention requirements such as vaccination, worming, tick and flea control, heartworm preventive
- avoid contact with other dogs when making stops along your journey, such as at fuel stations, truck stops or caravan parks to avoid disease transmission between dogs.

### Boarding your dog?

- Make sure your dog's tick, flea, worm and vaccinations are current before any boarding visits.
- Check with your local boarding kennel on mandatory disease prevention requirements to ensure strong disease prevention measures are in place. Dogs with known or suspected infectious diseases should not be boarded.