



## **ANAPLASMOSIS IN DOGS**

Anaplasmosis affects the platelets in the blood. These are small cells which help clots to form. Anaplasmosis causes thrombocytopenia, which is a lower than normal platelet count in the blood.

Small blood vessels in the body often break and platelets and a protein called fibrinogen, 'plug' the break in the vessel and prevent blood from leaking out. When platelet levels are low, bleeding can occur from these vessels, sometimes into the digestive tract, skin, or other organs.

### **What Causes It?**

It is caused by the bacteria *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, which used to be known as *Ehrlichia equi* and *Ehrlichia phagocytophilia*.

### **How Is It Transmitted?**

Anaplasmosis in dogs is transmitted by the bite of ticks, the same ticks that transmit Lyme disease.

### **What Are The Signs And Symptoms Of Anaplasmosis In Dogs?**

The most common signs of anaplasmosis are:-

- lethargy
- loss of appetite
- fever

These are common signs of many diseases. Other signs that may be seen include:-

- pale mucous membranes (e.g., pale gums)
- vomiting,
- diarrhoea
- lameness
- nosebleeds
- dark stools (due to the presence of digested blood).

Often these symptoms are noticed when ticks are most abundant.

Some dogs can become infected, but show no symptoms. This is called a "subclinical infection."

## **Treatment**

Anaplasmosis in dogs is treated with the antibiotic doxycycline for at least 4 weeks. Although reinfection from another tick bite can occur.

## **How is anaplasmosis in dogs prevented?**

There is no vaccine against anaplasmosis.

[Tick control](#) is the main way to prevent this disease.

- using an appropriate tick control product is essential.
- avoiding high risk areas, particularly during periods of peak tick activity during Spring and Autumn, can help.
- carefully examining your dog after walks to identify and then remove ticks is important, as removal of ticks within 48 hours of attachment helps to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

**Prevention** is covered fully in the "**PREVENTION OF DISEASES IN DOGS**" fact-sheet

**Don't forget that anaplasmosis can affect humans too, so take appropriate steps to protect yourself against ticks, such as covering up exposed skin and checking yourself carefully for ticks.**