



by
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VET'S CORNER



Canine leishmaniosis: protect your dog

Canine leishmaniosis is an insidious disease usually occurring in hotter climates and is often not familiar to people coming from colder locations. However, it is a severe disease (often fatal), so if you bring a dog to Spain (even just for a holiday) or intend to buy a dog, there are measures you should take to help protect your dog.

Transmission of leishmaniosis?

By far the most common method of a dog catching leishmaniosis is by transmission from the bite(s) of the blood sucking female sand fly. These sand flies can bite an infected animal and carry the disease, when the sand fly then bites another animal the parasite is transmitted. The name 'sand fly' implies a beach type location, but this is not so, they will be found predominantly in the countryside, rural greenlands and gardens. These types of insects are most active from May to October between the times of sunset to sunrise, so these should be considered the

most dangerous periods.

Indications of canine leishmaniosis

Typically there are a wide range of symptoms indicating the disease. Hair loss and poor condition, especially in the muzzle and eye areas, but progressively spreading to the rest of the body. Skin will become dry. Ulcers and general skin sores may develop particularly around the head and legs. Weight loss can become very severe, with the appearance of malnutrition, even though appetite for food is good. All conditions are progressive and later indications may also appear including the dogs claws becoming very long and twisted.

Veterinary diagnosis

An experienced vet in an endemic area will recognize the visual indications, however diagnostic confirmation is required. Bone marrow or lymph sample may be examined microscopically, blood analysis will identify antibodies

or DNA markers of the parasite present in the blood.

Treatments for an infected dog

In clinical terms, there is presently no cure for this disease. However, if a dog is diagnosed in the early stages, there is reasonable expectation that the disease can be successfully controlled. Once infected, a dog will probably carry the parasite for life, although once properly treated any remaining parasitic levels should be extremely low and there will always be a chance of relapse. It is important the treatment and regular supervision is undertaken by a qualified vet as initial treatment can take weeks and needs to be closely monitored.

Preventative measures

As the female sand fly usually bites between dusk and dawn and also habitats dark areas around litter and rubbish, avoid taking dogs for walks at these times and places. 'House' dogs are safer and at reduced

risk, but screens and nets will provide added protection where windows and doors are left open. Periodically spraying of anti-mosquito products around your dogs bed/sleeping area will also help. The use of Scalibor collars releases an active ingredient onto the dog's skin which will last for up to six months and tests have shown an 80-90% increase in protection from sand fly bites. Ex-spot can also be applied (once a month). Importantly, keep a good hygienic environment for your dog, avoid plants, flowers and rubbish in

the areas your dog frequents.

Maintain an optimal immune system in your dog: It can be confidently assumed that 100% of dogs in our area have been bitten by sand flies, but only a few will carry the transmittable parasite, this is due to most dogs having resisted the disease in their immune system. The immune system is reinforced with good 'premium' nutritional foods with a good balance of protein, fat, vitamins and trace elements allows our dog's defence system to deal with this and other diseases. Keeping

your dog free from internal (worms, tapeworms) and other external parasites (fleas, ticks, mites, etc) will also ensure your dogs immune system is in the best state to deal with diseases.

Early diagnosis: The period of incubation of the parasite is very long (months or years), so many dogs that have not manifested symptoms can still be incubating and transmitting the disease. Therefore it is recommended that a blood test with a good immunosorbent assay (ELISA) be performed every 6-8 months. Blood tests for detection of antibodies in all dogs, even if apparently healthy, are important, because if diagnosed in early or initial stages your dog could be properly treated and live a full happy/healthy life.



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NIKO, TERRIER MIX approx

5yrs 32cm After wandering in the street for several days Niko ended up in the garden of the people who brought him to us.. Now he is sitting here in the shelter and he does not like it very much, he does not want to make new friends. This is the classical behaviour of dogs which have been abandoned. Apart from this he is friendly and he walks well on the lead. He would be suitable for a flat also because he is not too big and we only wish that we can find somebody to adopt him and gives him a new chance. APASA JAVEA Mandy 639 603 880 Or Maggie 965 744 449

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NITRO, POINTER MIX approx

1 yr 50cm Nitro has a very cheerful nature. No matter who approaches him they will be greeted with wagging tail. Nitro is a very uncomplicated dog. We think he would be an excellent companion for a family, even with children. He walks well on the lead and he actually enjoys car rides. APASA JAVEA Mandy 639 603 880 or Maggie 965 744 449

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WANT TO RIDE? I have a lovely grey andalusian part bred mare, but lack of time to ride due to work commitment. Not a novice rider. Stabled between La Nucia and Altea. Responsible rider required to exercise her and contribute towards her upkeep in exchange for regular riding. Tel. 666 554 911

JAMES, POINTER MIX approx

2 yrs 60cm This male had approached a house because he was starving. The woman who lived there gave him some food and the next morning she brought him to our shelter. Oh dear James had a whole lot of ticks in one of his ears and he badly needed some help. Therefore we had to remove the ticks, bathe him and then he just wanted to eat. James is a very kind and likeable male and as he gradually recovered he has turned out to be very playful. He has no problems with other males and he walks well on the lead. APASA JAVEA Mandy 630 603 880 or Maggie 965 744 449

ANNE, ALSATOPM MIX approx

9 months We regard her as some kind of "Bonsai Alsatian". She has the exact look of an Alsatian although she does not even reach 50 cm in height. Anne is a very friendly female who loves everything and everybody but she has received a certain habit of dominating behaviour from her large ancestors. Anne should therefore receive new owners who are experienced with dogs because otherwise she might well become the boss in the house. She walks well on the lead and she is house trained as well. APASA JAVEA Mandy 639 603 880 Or Maggie 965 744 449

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This really sweet 2 year old French Bull dog is in need of a safe and loving home, his last owners left him in his kennel all day, he never went out and was badly cared for. He contracted leishmaniosis and they abandoned him! His life has been saved, he is now fit and well, he can live a normal life, with regular check-ups. Please give him a chance call: 666 202 270

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SCOOBY is a 7 month old Pointer cross who came to us in November last year. He is a friendly dog who enjoys playing with his kennel mates and gets on well with both male and female dogs. Scooby loves his walks and the company of people. He has had all his vaccinations and is microchipped.



Please call the kennels on 966 710 047
www.satanimalrescue.com