



10 July 2020

Ehrlichiosis in dogs

- The disease ehrlichiosis (*say* AIR-LIK-EE-O-SIS) has been confirmed in a small number of areas in north Western Australia and Northern Territory.
- This is the first time ehrlichiosis infection has been detected in Australian dogs.
- A coordinated response is happening across all governments.

About ehrlichiosis

- Infection with the bacteria *Ehrlichia canis* causes a disease called ehrlichiosis.
- Dogs become infected after being bitten by an infected tick.
- The brown dog tick is the main tick that spreads the disease. This tick is found all over northern Australia and mostly bites dogs.
- Initial signs of infection can include:
 - fever
 - lack of energy / tiredness
 - swollen glands
 - not eating well
 - runny or mucky eyes and nose
 - skinny / losing weight
 - bruising or bleeding - for example, from the nose, eyes or gums.
- **Dogs can die from this disease.**

Human health risks

- Sick dogs do not transmit this disease to people.
- In rare cases, ticks may infect people.
If you get sick after being bitten by a tick, seek medical advice.

Advice for dog owners

- Dog owners can help prevent this disease in their dogs:
 - Give your dog regular tick treatment.
 - Inspect your dog daily for ticks.
- Contact your vet if your dog is showing any of signs of disease.
 - It is important to seek veterinary advice and treatment.
 - Early treatment from a vet provides the best chance of recovery.

Reporting

This disease is a nationally notifiable disease.

This means, if you think your dog might have the disease, you need to report it.

Report to a biosecurity officer, ranger or vet or call the

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

1800 675 888

outbreak.gov.au



Image courtesy Dr John Beadle



Image courtesy Prof Peter Irwin