

Babesiosis

Babesiosis [pronounced ba-bee-zee-oh-sis] is caused by Babesia species of bacteria: Babesia gibsoni and Babesia vogeli. Babesia vogeli organisms are transmitted by the brown dog tick, but other species like Babesia gibsoni can also be transmitted from dog to dog if an infected dog bites another (fighting, etc.) or a blood transfusion. Babesiosis is found throughout the United States and Canada.

Symptoms of babesiosis

- Babesiosis affects red blood cells, and as a dog's immune system tries to eliminate the infected blood cells, anemia, pallor and general weakness may result.
- Lack of activity/lethargy
- Generalized weakness
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss

Hepatozoonosis

Canine hepatozoonosis is caused by infection with Hepatozoon species of parasites: Hepatozoon americanum is transmitted by the Gulf Coast tick, and Hepatozoon canis is transmitted by the brown dog tick. Cases of canine hepatozoonosis have been reported in the eastern and middle-southern regions of the United States. Unlike other vector-borne diseases that are transmitted by tick bite, both forms of canine hepatozoonosis are transmitted when a dog ingests an infected tick.

Symptoms of Hepatozoon canis

- Hepatozoon canis infects white blood cells, causing vague non-specific symptoms:
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Lethargy

Symptoms of Hepatozoon americanum

- Hepatozoon americanum affects muscle cells, resulting in a debilitating and potentially fatal condition. A dog infected with Hepatozoon americanum will typically show severe symptoms that occur intermittently. These can include any of the following:
- Fever/depression
- Generalized pain
- Loss of muscle mass with chronic weight loss
- Discharge from the eyes

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