

## Canine Vector-borne Disease

# YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CANINE PARASITIC DISEASES



For more information about the health of your dog, go to [dogsandticks.com](http://dogsandticks.com)



	Lyme disease	Anaplasmosis	Ehrlichiosis	Heartworm disease
<b>Parasite</b>	Deer tick or black-legged tick ( <i>Ixodes</i> spp.) carries bacteria and bites dogs, spreading infection		Brown dog tick ( <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> ) carries bacteria and bites dog, spreading infection	Mosquito transfers worm larvae from infected dog to your dog; larvae develop into worms that live in the heart and its vessels
<b>Most common signs of infection</b>	Silent infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lameness</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Swollen joints</li> <li>• Kidney failure</li> <li>• "Not himself/herself"</li> <li>• Anorexia</li> </ul>	Silent infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of energy</li> <li>• High fever</li> <li>• Swollen, very painful joints</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> </ul>	From mild to severe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Painful joints</li> <li>• Bloody nose</li> <li>• Pale gums</li> </ul>	No sign at first, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild, persistent cough</li> <li>• Reluctance to move or exercise</li> <li>• Tiredness after moderate exercise</li> <li>• Reduced appetite</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> </ul>
<b>Disease progression if left untreated</b>	Damaged joints, fatal kidney disease (rare)	Very low numbers of platelets and white blood cells, chronic joint pain, neurological signs (rare)	Permanent blindness, autoimmune diseases, bleeding complications, death	Heart failure, lung disease, sudden death
<b>Coinfection</b>	Coinfection with Lyme disease and anaplasmosis is possible. In addition, it's possible for your dog to become infected with any combination of parasitic diseases—including those not listed here.			
<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Simple blood test:</b> SNAP® 4Dx® Test (can detect four infections in one blood sample in less than 10 minutes) <b>Other tests:</b> Complete blood count, chemistry profile, urinalysis, other special tests, depending on initial findings and clinical signs			
<b>Treatment</b>	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Antibiotics: doxycycline, tetracycline	Adulticides (kills adult heartworms), melarsomine(Immiticide®) <small>Source: American Heartworm Society</small>
<b>Prognosis</b>	If caught and treated early, the outcome is usually very good for a full recovery from symptoms. Some of these infections cannot be cured completely, but early intervention usually provides the best prognosis.			
<b>Vaccine available?</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Other prevention</b>	Daily tick inspection and removal, and the use of topicals and other veterinarian-dispensed products			Heartworm pills and topical preventatives (typically monthly)

**IMPORTANT: No prevention is 100% effective. Test your dog every year.**