

Alabama Rot or CRGV (Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy)

CRGV is a disease caused by damage to blood vessels of the skin and kidneys. Tiny blood clots are formed in the blood vessels which blocks them and can ultimately lead to damage of the affected tissue. In the skin this causes ulceration, however, in the kidney it can lead to kidney failure.

Causes

It is thought possible that there is an environmental cause and there may also be a seasonal element as most cases of CRGV have occurred between November and June, but at this time the cause remains unknown and investigations are ongoing. CRGV has been found in a variety of breeds, differing sizes, weights, ages and both sexes.

Signs

Look for unexplained redness, sores or swelling of the skin. Particularly attention should be paid to the paws and legs but also the body, face, tongue or mouth as these areas are often where the first signs of this disease are found. If you see your dog licking at an area just check to see if there is a sore of unknown origin. The lesions caused by CRGV can look very similar to normal cuts, wounds, stings or bites, so if in doubt get your Vet to check. If caught early and even if they develop the skin lesions not all dogs go on to the more serious kidney failure and do survive.

Treatment

If your dog develops a skin lesion your vet will be able to advise you on the most appropriate management. Your vet will decide if your dog needs antibiotics and if the area needs covering. It may be advisable to avoid some forms of painkiller, non-steroidal. Dogs developing kidney failure will need much more intensive management and your Vet may recommend referral to a specialist.

Prevention

Because the cause is, as yet, unknown there is no specific advice about prevention. It may be a good idea to wash off your dog if it is walked in wet muddy areas but there is no current proof that this will have any preventative effect.

Specific areas to avoid

Cases of CRGV have been reported from across many different counties in the UK and there are no specific areas or terrains that dog walkers have been advised to avoid. Again, although an environmental cause for this disease is considered possible there is, as yet, no proof.

If you and your Vet are concerned your dog has CRGV you can contact Anderson Moores for advice. They also offer histopathology free of charge on suspected cases.

Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists, 01962 767920, david@andersonmoores.com.

Although CRGV is a nasty and scary disease it is still rare.

References and useful Links.

www.AndersonMoores.com - Leading the research into CRGV

www.newforestdog.org.uk

www.aht.org.uk

www.alabamarot.co.uk