



ALABAMA ROT

Client information sheet

Alabama rot is a disease that has been known about since the late 1980s in the USA. Since December 2012 a number of suspected and confirmed cases have been seen in counties throughout the UK.

Dogs reported with the disease can suffer kidney failure and/or skin lesions. The cause of the disease remains unknown. The disease does not appear to pass from dog to dog. Although reports come from people who have walked their dog in the countryside, the cause of the disease remains unknown. Many thousands of dogs are walked in the countryside every day and it is important to remember that only a very small number of dogs have been affected.

Most skin lesions will not be caused by this disease and most cases of kidney failure will have another cause.

What should I look out for?

The skin lesions are a symptom of the disease rather than being traumatic wounds from an injury. Typically the skin lesions have been below the knee or elbow. They may present as a focal swelling, a patch of red skin or a defect in the skin (like an ulcer). Over the subsequent two to seven days the affected dogs have developed clinical signs of kidney failure which can include vomiting, reduced appetite and tiredness.

What should I do?

If you are concerned about your dog please speak to your vet. If your dog is affected, early recognition of the disease and aggressive management is likely to lead to the best outcome.



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