

LePar Animal Hospital
3811 W. 95th St.
Evergreen Park, IL 60805
708-423-3200
www.leparvet.com

What is canine anaplasmosis?

Canine anaplasmosis comes in two forms. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is an infection of the white blood cells that's transmitted by the deer tick (also known as the black-legged tick) and the western black legged tick. These are the same ticks that transmit Lyme disease which increases the risk of co-infection with anaplasmosis. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can infect people as well as pets. It is a vector borne disease meaning humans contract it from ticks, not their pets.

The other form, *Anaplasma platys*, is an infection of the blood platelets that can lead to bleeding disorders and is transmitted by the brown dog tick. Although these two forms of anaplasmosis present with different signs, both pose a threat to your dog's health.

What are the symptoms of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*

Similar to other vector-borne diseases, symptoms of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* are often vague and nonspecific. Common signs can include any of the following:

- **Loss of appetite**
- **Lethargy**
- **Lameness, reluctance to move**
- **Neck pain or neurologic signs in some cases**

What are the symptoms of *Anaplasma platys*?

Symptoms of *Anaplasma platys* are often very difficult for pet owners to detect or identify as infection. Common signs can include any of the following:

- **Bruising on the gums and belly**
- **Spontaneous nosebleeds**

Where is canine anaplasmosis found?

Both forms of anaplasmosis are found throughout the United States, and both are prevalent in the mid-west.

How is anaplasmosis diagnosed and how is it treated?

Both forms of anaplasmosis are detected on our heartworm tests (Accuplex through Antech laboratories). Both forms of anaplasmosis are treated with the antibiotic Doxycycline for a 3 week course. We typically will not retest for this disease until the following year.

Frequently asked questions

- 1) If my dog is negative in August for this disease and I find a tick on him in October, do I need to retest him?
Ideally we should retest your pet approximately one month following exposure to his or her tick exposure. However, the tick usually has to be attached to your pet for at least 48 hours to transmit the bacteria. So it is incredibly important to use both tick control and check your pets after traveling to wooded areas where they could acquire a tick.

- 2) Will the course of antibiotics mean he'll never has a problem with this again or is there a chance it will reoccur and/or have long term complications?
This question is difficult to answer because your pet could be re-exposed to ticks at any time and contract the disease again. Anaplasmosis is a bacterial disease, meaning there is no immunity once infected with it once. The important aspect to focus on is screening, use of tick prevention, and early treatment before your pet becomes ill.