



Anaplasma Information Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Anaplasmosis?

Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*.

How did my dog become exposed?

Dogs contract Anaplasmosis through the bite of an infected tick. The bacterium is carried by the tick *Ixodes scapularis* or *I. pacificus*, also known as the "deer tick" and the "black legged tick," respectively.

What are the symptoms?

Acute Anaplasmosis commonly results in limping, joint swelling, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. Other possible symptoms include enlarged lymph nodes, enlarged spleen, bruising, and nose bleeds. Many dogs clear the infection without ever showing signs of illness.

How is the infection diagnosed?

A yearly 4DX test (heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma) can determine if your dog has been exposed. It may take two to four weeks after the initial infection for the test to turn positive. Other diagnostic tests which may be helpful include a CBC, chemistry panel, urinalysis, imaging (x-rays or ultrasound), lymph node aspirates, and PCR.

What is the treatment for Anaplasmosis?

Antibiotics such as doxycycline or minocycline, given for three to four weeks, are effective for clearing the infection. Chronic treatment is generally not needed.

Is Anaplasmosis contagious to humans?

There are no reported cases of direct transmission of *Anaplasma* from a dog to a person. Humans can contract Anaplasmosis from tick bites.

My dog has tested positive on the yearly 4DX test, but seems healthy. What do I do now?

Many dogs are exposed to *Anaplasma* but never get sick. If your dog tests positive, but is asymptomatic, a CBC (complete blood cell count) can help us determine whether treatment is needed. If the CBC is normal, your dog will likely not need treatment.

How can I prevent my dog from becoming exposed to Anaplasma?

Use reliable monthly tick control such as Nexgard as well as good screening and prompt removal of ticks will also help prevent tick bites and, therefore, reduce the risk of exposure.

