



ILLNESS DESCRIPTIONS

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Alopecia - This is a skin condition, affecting dogs with light colored coats. The symptom of this condition will be that patches of the dog's coat will start to thin noticeably. Veterinary treatment includes prevention of the bacterial infection that causes the condition.

Bladder Infection - Bladder infections in dogs and cats are influenced by bacteria, diet, environment, individual systemic health and exposure. Pets with bladder infections will commonly have more frequent urinary attempts producing smaller amounts of urine that may be blood tinged. Change in water consumption and appetite and urinary accidents are additional symptoms that may be observed during this problem. Bladder infections are not thought of as contagious diseases but more as an opportunistic problem given the appropriate circumstances. A comprehensive urinalysis with culture and sensitivity will differentiate bacterial causes and determine antibiotic selection. Diet and environment can influence the formation of certain crystals that can form bladder stones in adult dogs and cats. Identification of urinary tract problems may lead to specialized dietary recommendations for the problematic pet to minimize the chance of stone formation or reoccurring infection.

Cherry Eye - Dog's have what is referred to a third eyelid. It is part of this third eyelid that produces tears, an important function of the eye. This third eyelid can be positioned incorrectly causing it to swell and prolapse. The exposure to dry air and the dog's tendency to scratch and irritate it, causes more swelling, trauma, and infection. Symptoms are an irritated swollen eye. Breeds that are more susceptible include, Bulldogs, Terriers, Lhasa-Apsos, Beagles, Bloodhounds, Shar-Peis, Saint Bernards. Veterinarian treatment is necessary, which consists of a surgery to reposition the gland and in most cases is successful.

Coccidia - Coccidiosis is a potential problem in dogs and cats (especially puppies and kittens) that can cause symptoms including watery, bloody or mucous filled diarrhea and weakness in pups and kittens. This enteric infection (host specific) can also pose outside health risks if the oocysts are shed into the environment. Fecal examinations are used for diagnosis and multiple treatment medications are effective. Follow up fecal exams 1-2 weeks after therapy is necessary to assure appropriate clearing of the problem has occurred.

Colitis - This disease can be brought on by bacteria, stress, and parasites. It is an inflammation of the colon. Some breeds, especially Boxers are more susceptible to this illness. Symptoms can be sometimes undetectable to severe, including, excess mucus, blood in the feces, vomiting, pain while defecating, and abnormal defecation such as constipation and diarrhea. The veterinarian will treat with antibiotic in an attempt to control bacterial causes and inflammation. Steroids are also sometimes prescribed for treatment of this illness.

Conjunctivitis/Eye Infection - Conjunctivitis is the inflammation of the tissues around the eye and lining the eyelids. Young dogs and cats are most susceptible to the infectious forms (from bacteria and virus) but all ages can be at risk. Reddening, swelling, discharge, sneezing, tearing and light sensitivity are all symptoms that can be identified with this problem and thorough ocular and physical examination is necessary to rule out systemic and traumatic causes. Though cross species contamination is questionable, many of the bacterial and viral problems can be transmitted by contact exposure. Treatment can include topical drops or ointments as well as oral medication for more aggressive cases. Special care and follow up should be taken to minimize

the risk of corneal injury secondary to infection and self-trauma.

Cryptorchid - This condition, also known as undescended testicles, occurs when the testicles don't descend into the scrotum. This can be evident at twelve weeks of age. Fertility, is affected when a dog is diagnosed with this condition. Since this is a genetic trait, it would not be recommended to breed this dog. Because of this condition, there is an increased chance of cancer within the retained testicle(s) and neutering is strongly recommended. The surgery to remove the retained testicle is more complicated than a routine neutering.

Dermatitis - This covers a range of inflammatory skin diseases that affect dogs. Breeds that are more susceptible to this condition are; Bernese Mountain Dogs, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, and sometimes thick coated, long haired dogs. Symptoms can occur over night, due to the dog's continued scratching and licking of the hot spot until hair is gone and sores appear. Veterinary treatment is needed and antibiotics are given to prevent infection and treat promptly.

Demodax Mange - This is a canine mite that is found on the skin of all dogs; however some dog's natural body defense system cannot protect it against the mite. If a dog is found to have an insufficient immunity to the mite it can produce large enough numbers to create skin sores. Skin sores would be the main symptom of this condition. Your veterinarian will likely prescribe antibiotics.

Distemper - Canine distemper is caused by a virus most often through droplet or airborne exposure in the respiratory system. This is a disease in dogs that can vary in symptoms from sub-clinical to fatal. Fever, respiratory symptoms, gastrointestinal symptoms and central nervous system symptoms have all been seen in distemper cases. This is one of the diseases that are vaccinated against beginning early in life. Puppies are most susceptible due to undeveloped immunity and there is no cure. Extended symptomatic treatment with a 50% mortality rate is the typical expectation when dealing with distemper. The symptoms involving the nervous system explain the origin of the name as initially it was categorized as a disease that changes the dog's temperament.

Distichia - This affects the gland at the eyelid of a dog. Simply put, it is an eye lash, sometimes more than one, rising out of a normal spot on the dog's eyelid. Visible Symptoms can be mild to severe irritation of the eye, which can cause infection, tearing, scarring, and squinting. Some breeds are more susceptible than others. These are Miniature Dachshunds, Bulldogs, Shetland Sheepdogs, Cocker Spaniels, Pekinese, Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, and King Charles Cavaliers. Veterinarians, depending on the severity, can manually remove or, in more severe circumstances, surgically remove.

Elbow Dysplasia - This is a condition where the cartilage in the leg of the puppy at the elbow has not hardened into bone and has not properly fused with the other bones in the leg. It will usually affect both front legs. The cause can be trauma, genetics, and or diet. Symptoms will be an obvious lameness in one or both of the front legs. The dog will either limp on the affected limb or limbs, or hold the limb up altogether while walking. Depending on the type of abnormality in the bone growth, treatment can vary from exercise and diet to surgery. On going veterinary care may be required, depending on the severity.

Gastroenteritis - Gastroenteritis is intestinal upset in dogs and cats can be caused from dietary indiscretions, parasitic exposure, bacterial or viral infection and overgrowth or other systemic disease processes. Young kittens and pups are exposed to dietary changes at different stages of life and in different environments which can lead to an inflammatory problem in the digestive system. Lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration and inability to thrive are some symptoms associated with this problem. Comprehensive exam, fecal parasite check and evaluation and symptomatic care are commonly instituted when intestinal symptoms occur. Pets of all ages can show symptoms consistent with Gastroenteritis syndromes and treatment varies depending on

severity, duration, and response to therapy.

Giardia - Giardiasis is caused by ingestion of protozoa, most commonly from water contamination, and can be a problem in dogs and cats. Signs may be acute, intermittent or chronic mucous filled diarrhea, and occasional vomit. Fecal evaluation and blood tests are diagnostically available and treatment options are numerous. Depending on geographic location, many pets are exposed to this problem at a very early age, can carry the infection with no symptoms, and cross species contamination and vaccine benefits are debatable topics.

Hepatitis - This disease is considered extremely contagious as it can be spread easily from cages, dog dishes, hands, urine, and nasal discharge of infected dogs. Young puppies and dogs under one year of age are susceptible and all unvaccinated dogs are prone to be afflicted with the disease. Symptoms can affect tonsils and the larynx and can cause coughing. It can also make the dog's eyes cloudy and affect the dog's liver and kidneys. If it does enter the blood stream, noticeable symptoms such as seizures, vomiting, and or diarrhea can occur. It is important for your veterinarian to vaccinate your dog against this, otherwise intravenous fluids must be given in order to treat this disease.

Hip Displaysia - This is a degenerative disease affecting the hip joint of a dog. It is caused by the improper support of the hip joint. Because of the ligaments, and muscles in this joint being too loose, there will be an improper wearing of the joint. This condition may affect one or both hind legs and if untreated will lead to arthritis and pain in the hips. It is mainly brought on by genetics. Symptoms will include a noticeable increase in difficulty in the ability to run, walk, or even get up. The affected dog or puppy can be treated medically through diet, exercise and or drugs, and in more severe cases surgery. Follow-up treatment may be required.

Intestinal Parasites - Intestinal parasites such as Roundworm (Ascariasis), Hookworm (Ancylostomiasis), and Whipworm (Trichuriasis) can be problematic in dogs and cats. These intestinal parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, blood tinged or tarry stool, decreased appetite, anemia, inability to thrive, distended abdomen, sudden death or other symptoms. Common modes of infection can be fecal to oral contamination, environmental exposure, or passed from mother to offspring. Serial fecal examinations for diagnosis may be necessary and a variety of effective medications are available to treat parasitic infestation. Some of these intestinal parasites have zoonotic potential (transmissible to humans) and can be especially harmful in children. The eggs of these parasites can survive in the soil for months to years which can make complete elimination of risk difficult once introduced into the environment. A year round comprehensive parasite prevention protocol is recommended for pet owners to minimize the potential problems of intestinal parasitism to the pet and other family members.

Kennel Cough/ Tracheobronchitis - "Kennel cough" or Tracheobronchitis is a progressed upper respiratory disorder which can be caused by a number of different bacterial and viral contributors and irritation. It is most commonly seen in dogs having had social exposure within the previous 3-7 day period prior to onset of symptoms. All dogs are susceptible and puppies are especially sensitive due to their underdeveloped immune status. Kennel cough is considered a highly contagious infection with aerosol transmission the most common route of exposure. Proactive therapy with antibiotics and cough suppressants is the most successful way of minimizing the severity and possible progression toward pneumonia. It is not unusual to see an infection require 2-3 weeks of antibiotic therapy and multiple veterinary visits.

Liver Shunt - This illness involves abnormal blood flow through the liver. The abnormality occurs when blood is shunted around the liver rather than through it, and this bypassing of blood at times can be too much or too little the normal rate. The extent varies with each dog, the severity and the age. Symptoms are dependent upon the extent of the blood flowing through the liver. More severe evident symptoms can include, seizures, vomiting, constipation, increased saliva, increased urination, and in puppies at a few weeks of age; slow growth rates. To properly diagnose this illness, veterinarians must identify and eliminate the shunt. Diagnosis and treatment can include a series of tests including; blood work, ultrasounds, x-rays, and ultimately surgery

and can be extensive.

Luxating Patella - This is a condition involving the knee cap of one or both of the hind legs. The patella will slide out of the natural grooves which are supposed to guide it straight up and down. It can be a genetic condition, affecting mainly smaller breeds of dogs, but can also be caused by trauma. Symptoms will include a yelp of pain from the dog, and an obvious lameness of one of the hind legs. The hind leg will be held up off of the ground for a few minutes until the muscles relax and the dog is able to return the leg to its normal position and begin using it again. Surgery is normally required in order to correct this condition and some follow-up visits may be required.

Megaesophagus - This is in most cases is a congenital defect. It is an illness where the esophagus has lost muscle tone and its ability to function properly. The only noticeable symptom is, regurgitation shortly after eating. Surgery is possible, with questionable outcome.

Otitis - Otitis externa or infection of the outer ear canal can be caused by yeast, bacteria, fungal and parasitic initiators in dogs and cats. Parasitic infection by ear mites (*Otodectes cynotis*) is contagious and transmissible through contact and is more commonly seen in younger pets. Bacterial, yeast and fungal infections occur in an ear environment that is conducive to infection i.e. moist, inflamed, lack of airflow or irritated. Ear cytology will differentiate between possible causes and dictate appropriate therapy and medication. Advanced infection can cause severe discomfort, ruptured ear drum, chronic thickening of tissue surrounding the ear canal and initiate possible secondary issues of self-trauma.

Parvo - Parvo viral infectious enteritis is a disease in puppies that causes severe blood tinged diarrhea, vomiting and depression in undeveloped immune systems. This is another contagious problem which can be avoided in most circumstances given proper vaccine protocols. The virus is able to survive in the soil or other areas of the environment for months which increases exposure risks once introduced. Supportive care administered very aggressively provides the highest chance of survival, but secondary problems can occur in affected puppies which may lead to prolonged treatment and hospitalization. This virus is susceptible to a 1:10 dilute bleach solution (as well as other specialized cleaning products) given the appropriate direct contact time, but is very difficult to eliminate from an environment once introduced.

Pneumonia - This is a very contagious illness, especially with puppies exposed at an early age, affecting the lungs which causes severe inflammation within the lungs. Because of the build up of fluids in the lung tissue, symptoms vary. These include difficulty inhaling and exhaling, persistent panting or shallow breaths, and the sound of fluids in the lungs. Because of the lack of oxygen in the blood; the tongue, gums and lips may have a greyish or bluish color. Normally a regular veterinary visit will cure this illness. Early detection is the key to minimize the severity and need for multiple veterinary visits.

Prolapsed Rectum - This is a condition where part of the rectal tissue has been forced out of the anus. It is caused by pressure on the inner layers of the rectum through the anus. There are several root causes for this including but not limited to: Persistent cough, constipation, urinary infections, parasites, diarrhea, birth, and any type of straining. Symptoms will be obviously visual in the area of the anus. It will appear as a reddish tissue mass protruding from the anus. Veterinary treatment is mandatory. With proper veterinary care, the damaged tissue can be repaired or removed. Your veterinarian may recommend follow-up treatment.

Pyoderma - This is a skin infection that affects the chin and or abdomen and or areas that are hairless. It is more frequent in puppies less than one year old. Breeds, such as, Chinese Shar-Peis, Dobermans, Bulldogs, and Boxers are breeds which are more susceptible to this skin infection and may continue into adulthood.

Symptoms include areas where pustules, and or crusts form on the hairless areas the skin. This illness rarely spreads, sometimes heals on its own, and is not life threatening, however your veterinarian should prescribe antibiotics for treatment. This will usually involve only one visit to the veterinarian.

Renal Displaysia - This a hereditary defect that affects the dog's kidneys. The severity depends upon whether the illness affects one or both kidneys. If both kidneys are affected it can be life threatening. The dog can live a normal life if only one kidney is found to be affected. Symptoms include loss of appetite, weight loss, vomiting and lethargy. Veterinary care is mandatory and will probably involve multiple visits in order to get necessary fluids to the improperly functioning kidney. There are many breeds that are more prone toward having this disease, including, but not limited to; Lhasa-Apsos, Shih-tzus, Standard Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Dobermans, Wheaten Terriers, and Alaskan Malamutes.

Ringworm - This is a fungus that can infect dogs. It is highly contagious and young puppies are more susceptible than older dogs. The fungus is transmitted and can live up to eighteen months just about anywhere any other cats or dogs have been. It will start as a round small lesion in appearance or small sore that is irritated, red, and itchy. It is most common on the head, especially around the nose and mouth, but can also occur on the legs and tail. Veterinarians treat with antifungal medications and topical treatments depending on the severity. Since ringworm can be contracted by both animals and humans, gloves should be worn when handling an infected dog.

Rhinitis - This is a nasal infection with risks from mild to severe. A dog diagnosed with this disease, should be isolated from other animals as it is contagious. Symptoms affect the nasal passage. This can include excessive nasal discharge, mucus in the nasal, colored yellow-greenish mucus and in more severe cases, bloody mucus. This illness makes the dog sneeze frequently, which can affect his ability to detect odors. Veterinary care is strongly recommended, due to the fact that the nasal infection may spread and affect the trachea, bronchi, and lungs causing the dog to suffer even more illnesses. Your veterinarian will choose the appropriate tests, depending on the symptoms and decide the appropriate treatment. Your veterinarian may recommend follow-up treatments.

Umbilical Hernia - This condition is an opening where muscle mass or other tissues pass through. This is located near where the umbilical chord was connected to the puppy. Symptoms can include a visible abnormal protrusion on the dog's belly. If left untreated it can become large and painful for the animal. Treatment involves the veterinarian surgically sowing the opening shut.

Upper Respiratory Infection -Upper respiratory infections in cats and dogs can be caused by bacterial, viral, fungal, or various parasitic exposures and is most concerning in the underdeveloped or compromised immune systems of the very young. These can be contagious in mode of transmission or by environmental exposure and can show a variety of symptoms including cough, sneeze, discharge from the eyes and nose, and retching or vomiting. Treatment may include oral or topical antibiotics and often requires symptomatic and supportive care. Kittens are stimulated in appetite by sense of smell which can be depressed with these infections leading to potentially more severe problems. Response to therapy and supportive care will determine the length of the therapy and number of veterinary visits.



