
Anaplasmosis



Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease that is caused by a bacterium called *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. This bacteria lives inside the white blood cell and can cause a large number of problems. This disease can affect both dogs and cats and used to be called Ehrlichiosis. Deer ticks carry the bacteria that Anaplasmosis comes from. When the tick bites your animal it spreads the infection. Deer ticks can also carry other diseases that you should be aware of including Lyme disease.

Signs may begin to show 1-2 weeks after getting infected. However, sometimes pets will become sick months later. In most of the cases signs appear suddenly. You will want to watch for things including, lack of energy, high fever, swollen very painful joints, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea and neurologic signs. Some pets may develop liver and kidney damage with the infection. These damages could lead to bleeding disorders that show up as nosebleeds, bloody urine, or severe bruising on the skin.

The 4Dx test is a quick (10 minute) in clinic test that checks for three tick borne diseases, Anaplasmosis, Lyme disease and *Ehrlichia canis*, as well as heartworm disease (a disease carried by mosquitoes). Dogs can have more than one of these diseases at any time. Other tests that the doctor may want to do to detect how extensive the disease has become and help determine a treatment plan include a complete blood count (CBC). This test measures and evaluates the cells that circulate in the bloodstream. Most dogs that we see that have Anaplasmosis will have an abnormal cell count. The platelets (which help the blood clot correctly) and the red blood cells are usually lower than normal. The white blood cell count is usually low and in about half of the cases we will actually see the bacteria inside of the white blood cells. Your veterinarian may also want to run a chemistry profile which is a group of six or more tests that look at the internal organ function. This also helps us plan how aggressively we need to treat your pet to have a good outcome. Another test that your veterinarian may want to run is a urinalysis. Pets may have kidney damage with this infection. Evaluating the urine will check for kidney damage and allow us to plan our treatment. Our number one fear is that some pets may develop permanent damage.



With proper treatment the prognosis is good. Most pets respond within a couple of days and will make a complete recovery. You may occasionally see dogs that have developed immune system problems after an infection with Anaplasmosis. In these cases your dog requires an anti-inflammatory medication in addition to antibiotics. Either minocycline or doxycycline are the most common antibiotics that we use to kill *Anaplasma*. It is very important to give all the medications as directed. The number one side effect of this drug that we see is stomach upset, which can usually be avoided if given with a meal.

In severe cases, we may need to give other medications and treatments. If there are bleeding problems or organ damage, we may even need to keep the pet at the clinic for more advanced and critical care. To prevent Anaplasmosis good tick control is very important. Using a product like Frontline, Certifect or Nexgard can help reduce the chances that your dog can become infected with a tick borne disease. The Cedar Grove Veterinary service does carry all of these safe and effective products for your tick control.

Humans cannot get Anaplasmosis from your pet however, we can get Anaplasmosis from tick bites, but not from contact with an infected dog. You should consider the fact that since your dog has Anaplasmosis it's in your area and you should take safety measures in protecting yourself and your family.

If you have any more questions about this disease or other tick borne disease feel free to call Cedar Grove Veterinary Clinic at (920) 668-6212 or send us an e-mail at info@cgvet.com.