

# Ehrlichiosis

## **What is canine ehrlichiosis [ur-lik-ee-oh-sis]?**

Canine ehrlichiosis comes in multiple forms that are often specific to different U.S regions. Ehrlichia is transmitted by the brown dog tick or by the lone star tick. Like Lyme disease in dogs, symptoms of canine ehrlichiosis may not be obvious. If left untreated, these diseases could progress to a chronic (persistent) infection, which can last days, months or years without showing any symptoms.

Ehrlichia is a zoonotic disease, which means it can infect people as well as pets. These diseases are particularly dangerous for young children, older adults and those with compromised immune systems.

## **What are the symptoms of ehrlichiosis?**

Ehrlichia is an infection of white blood cells that can eventually affect bone marrow function, including production of blood cells. Common symptoms can include any of the following:

- Depression and/or lack of energy
- Loss of appetite
- Runny eyes and nose/discharge
- Spontaneous nose bleeds
- Bruising on gums and belly
- Lameness/joint pain

## **Where is canine ehrlichiosis found?**

Different strains of canine ehrlichiosis are found throughout the United States and Canada. The highest concentration of cases is reported in southwestern and Gulf Coast regions of the United State. However, the number of cases is on the rise and can be found in states as far north as Massachusetts and as far west as central Oklahoma and Kansas.