



March 2014

Information for Dog Owners – Alabama Rot

Since November 2012 a small number of unexpected deaths in dogs walked in the New Forest and around the UK prompted an investigation into possible causes.

Signs and test results in affected dogs are similar to those previously reported in dogs with cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy ('Alabama Rot'), which can cause kidney failure. Despite environmental and veterinary testing, the exact cause of the disease remains unknown.

Dog owners are advised to look out for lesions/wounds of unknown cause on the limbs or face of their dog. The lesions can vary in size from a 5 pence to a 50 pence piece. Owners should quickly seek advice from their vet if they are concerned. Affected dogs may develop signs of severe depression, loss of appetite and vomiting and could suffer kidney failure.

Whilst dog owners will understandably be concerned, it is important to remember that only a very small number of dogs have been affected. Most skin lesions will not be caused by this disease and most cases of kidney failure will have another cause.

If you are a **dog owner** and believe your dog has been affected, please direct your enquiries to your local vet. Your **vet** may want to contact Anderson Moores on 01962 76792 or by emailing info@andersonmoores.com.

The most up to date information, including locations of both confirmed and unconfirmed cases across the country can be found at: www.forestry.gov.uk/alabamarot



The Animal Health Trust has launched an online survey to help with the investigation. You can help by completing the survey whether or not your dog has been ill: www.aht.org.uk/alabamarot

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