

Information Sheet on GRGV or 'Alabama Rot'

Idiopathic cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy, otherwise known as CRGV or Alabama rot is a disease that has been known about since the late 1980's. It was initially thought to only affect Greyhounds and the dogs reported with the disease in the USA presented with kidney failure and/or skin lesions.

The cause of the disease remains unknown. Since December 2012 a number of suspected cases have been seen in the United Kingdom. Some of these were from the New Forest. However, cases have also been identified in other countries throughout the UK.

Recently there have been a small number of confirmed cases in the area between Leigh, Hindley and Tyldesley in Great Manchester. The skin lesions are a symptom of the disease rather than being traumatic wounds from an injury. Typically the skin lesions have been below the knee or elbow. They may present as a focal swelling, a patch of red skin or a defect in the skin (like an ulcer). They can also be found in the mouth, or on the tongue. Over the subsequent two to seven days the affected dogs have developed clinical signs of kidney failure which can include vomiting, reduced appetite and tiredness.

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 your dog is affected, early recognition of the disease and aggressive management is likely to lead to the best outcome. Without knowing the trigger for the disease it is impossible to give specific advice about walking your dog and it is again important to stress that the case numbers are very low. The disease does not appear to pass from dog to dog, or affect other species of animals.

If you are concerned about your dog please speak to your local vet.

Any further updates can be found on our own website and face book pages, and also at: <http://www.andersonmoores.com/vet/news> who provided the information above

A list of geographical locations of confirmed cases can be found at:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/alabamarot>

We would encourage dog owners of affected and unaffected dogs to complete a questionnaire which can be found at <http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/aki-form.html> which will help information to be compiled regarding this condition.