

DOG DISEASES IN ARUBA



Here we list the some of the most common diseases found in dogs on the island of Aruba. With signs and symptoms to look out for and the necessary treatment to prevent or cure them.

TICK DISEASE

A tick is a type of parasite that attaches itself to the skin of the animal and feeds on their blood. Signs include fever, decreased appetite, weigh loss, depression. Anaemia is also often a major symptom. A monthly pill (NexGuard) is recommended for prevention. Otherwise a course of antibiotics will be needed for an infected dog from the vets



SCABIES

There are two types of scabies. Sarcoptic (contagious) and Demodectic (non-contagious). Mites burrow into the skin and cause severe itching and scratching, which can result in the formation of scabs and hair loss. There is often a distinct odour. A skin scrape is needed to determine which kind of scabies. Treatment includes oral medication, injections and/or medicated shampoo. It can take at least one month to clear, often longer for older dogs

CANINE PARVO VIRUS

Highly contagious viral illness through direct contact and in-direct contact (e.g fecal-oral). Symptoms include bloody diarrhoea, lethargy, fever, vomiting, severe weight loss. As there is no real cure, treatment is focused on curing symptoms and secondary infections. Intravenous fluid is crucial to prevent dehydration. Early vaccination in puppies is the best method to prevent parvo.



HEARTWORM

A serious disease that results in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in dogs and cats. Caused by a parasite that is spread through the bite of a mosquito. Depending on the severity there may be no visible symptoms although signs can include coughing, anaemia, intolerance to exercise. Prevention is definitely better than cure. Just one pill a month (HeartGuard) can protect you dog/cat.

DISTEMPER

A contagious and serious viral illness with no known cure. The virus is spread through the air. Signs include high fever, reddened eyes, watery discharge from nose/eyes. Later stages of the virus include damage to the brain, spinal cord and nervous system which can lead to seizures and paralysis. Treatment focuses on alleviating the symptoms. Fully recovered dogs do not spread or carry the virus. Vaccination is the key to preventing Distemper.

