

## ‘Alabama Rot’



### Tips for Prevention

- Walk your dog in dry areas
- Avoid muddy puddles and walks
- Wash your dogs paws, legs and belly after walks
- Check your dog regularly for sores or lesions

### What to look for:

- Skin lesions, Ulcers, or Sores (these can be on the paws, legs, body, mouth or tongue)
- Vomiting
- Reduced hunger
- Loss of energy/lethargy





## **What is Alabama rot?**

Alabama Rot, or cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy (CRGV), was first identified in the US in the 1980s. Symptoms can include lesions or wounds on legs, paws and faces.

## **What happens?**

Over the following two to seven days, dogs develop clinical signs of kidney failure which can include vomiting, reduced appetite and tiredness.

## **How bad is it really?**

Since December 2012 cases have cropped up in the UK in Hampshire, Dorset, Surrey, Cornwall, Worcestershire and County Durham, with more cases in the last three months.

## **What can be done if a dog is infected?**

Treatment of kidney failure can be undertaken if the case is caught early, but many dogs die.

*Image courtesy of [www.pethealthnetwork.com](http://www.pethealthnetwork.com)*

## Cases of 'Alabama Rot' have been logged at nine cases a year that equates to 1 dog in a million - (end of 2017)

The majority of skin lesions on your dog will have no connection to 'Alabama Rot' but, as it is still unclear of the cause of the disease it is difficult to rule it out, (however unlikely it is) without carrying out a series of blood tests on the kidneys.

Skin wounds are typically 1-4cm in length, sometimes preceded by a swelling in the area.

They generally tend to be below the knee and typically have the appearance of an erosion or ulcer.

Affected dogs go on to develop acute kidney injury over the following 2-7 days (vomiting, lethargy) and seeking treatment early in the disease is vital.

There are various links to further information on the disease and we will try to include as many as we find useful to help our clients understand the background of this disease.

More on the background - <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/alabama-rot>

A UK map of noted cases - <http://www.vets4pets.com/stop-alabama-rot/>

Research into the disease - <http://alabamarot.co.uk/>

Fundraising for research - <http://www.arrf.co.uk/>

Latest local news (11/2/18) - <https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/local-news/alabama-rot-arrived-lincolnshire-here-1199049>

National News items recently - <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/alabama-rot-sweeping-uk-see-11997327>

Whilst we currently assess the risk as very low, we do encourage clients to be vigilant, carry out preventive measures, such as washing feet, legs and belly after walks, avoid muddy areas, and if you have any questions or concerns,

call us immediately on 01522 683300.

We are aware of local potential cases and our dog owners will naturally want as much information as possible.