



Disease alert: ehrlichiosis in dogs in northern WA

What is ehrlichiosis?

A new disease has been found in dogs in the Kimberley and Pilbara called ehrlichiosis. Ehrlichiosis occurs when dogs are bitten by ticks infected with the bacteria, *Ehrlichia canis*.

The signs of ehrlichiosis can vary significantly from almost no disease signs to severe fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, weight loss, and unusual bleeding or bruising. Early treatment by your vet provides the best chance of recovery.

Infected dogs cannot directly infect other dogs – the disease is spread through the bite of an infected tick (the brown dog tick).

Tips for controlling ticks

- Keep dogs on a regular tick treatment program.
- Check dogs for ticks regularly (especially around the neck, head, ears, armpits, belly and in between toes) and carefully remove ticks. Speak to your vet for guidance.
- If you find ticks on your dog, also treat the places where they sleep in your house and yard.

Infection with *E. canis* in dogs is a notifiable disease. If you think your dog has ehrlichiosis, call your local vet, [DPIRD vet](#), or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

Dogs leaving northern WA

Before you move your dog out of the Kimberley and Pilbara regions to southern WA, you should:

- Email the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development at animalbiosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au.
- Ensure your dog is healthy.
- Treat your dog for ticks in the 7 days before moving the dog and keep a record of the treatment for 6 months.
- Call **1800 675 888** if your dog becomes ill after moving out of the region.

More information

- To report signs of ehrlichiosis: 1800 675 888 agric.wa.gov.au/ehrlichiosis
- Movement conditions: 9368 3929 agric.wa.gov.au/dogmovements

Important disclaimer

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Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993

Controlled Area Order No.1/2020 and Control Order No.1/2020

Dog movement notification

| Dog owner / carer's details – person responsible for moving dog out of Kimberley | |
|---|---|
| Name | |
| Home address | |
| Phone number | |
| Email address | |
| Physical address (in the Kimberley region) | |
| Date of movement | |
| Dog details (please fill out a separate form for each individual dog) | |
| Name | |
| Microchip # | |
| Age | |
| Breed | |
| Sex | M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Desexed female <input type="checkbox"/> Desexed male <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog tick treatment | |
| Name of tick treatment applied | Dog details (fill out a separate form for each individual dog) |
| Date applied | |
| Destination | |
| To reflect the details of the person responsible for the dog at destination. Please indicate 'as above' where appropriate. | |
| Name | |
| Address | |
| Phone number | |
| Email address | |
| Physical address of the location of the dog (street address or suburb/shire) | |

Email the completed form to: animalbiosecurity@dpird.wa.gov.au. You can email a photo of the form, scanned PDF or the Word file, or paste the details into an email.

If you have questions about the form, ring (08) 9368 3929.