

### Treat the backyard.

Most people use asuntol or coumaphos to treat their dog ticks. They also use this liberally on the dog. This is not recommended because it puts your dog at risk of getting poisoned. We do, however, use asuntol and other organophosphates and pesticides to treat the surrounding area of the house and where your pets is usually situated. Grassy areas and rough walls are common hiding places for ticks. Fleas commonly stay hidden in the carpets, while lice like to stay in areas with papers or boxes. It is important to treat the surrounding area simultaneously with the treatment of your pet. Otherwise, you may be treating your pet now, but it is only a matter of time before your baby is reinfested by the parasites in the surrounding area. Also an important thing to point out that, for the pesticides to be effective it must have direct contact with the parasites. So be sure that you are able to spray the whole area with every corner covered.



### Treat the house.

This is a little tricky. Pesticides and organophosphates could be used as well, however, you'll have to tolerate the stench of the pesticides in your house. Item in your house might get water damaged as well. The trick with treating the house is using fumigation as the technique to get rid of these parasites. Unfortunately, Baygon does not work very well on ticks. Although if you insist on using Baygon, you will have to spray liberally on the area being treated close all ventilations, and allow Baygon to stay for at least half a day. However, there is a product that was specially made for ticks and fleas. Adam's Room Fogger. Just lock it and leave it in the house with all the windows and doors close. Have everybody stay out along with all the pets. Keep the house closed for about 2 hrs then ventilate for about 10-20 minutes before entering the room. It kills not only ticks and fleas but ants and cockroaches as well. The downside to this however, is that 1 can is quite expensive. So if you have a big house with a lot of ticks, it may still be more economical to hire a local pest control.

### Keep your pet tick free

Once you have done all of the above about 3 times every week or two... (it sometimes takes longer if the infestation is severe), the next step is making sure that your pet doesn't get these ticks again. Maintaining them on frontline is an option, however, like I mentioned earlier, the ticks and fleas have to bite before Frontline kills them. Since we know that blood parasite infections are acquired from tick bites, we want to make sure that our pets are not bitten at all to keep them from getting these diseases. Also, maintaining on Frontline every month may be a bit expensive. As such, I suggest using an anti-tick and flea collar or tick and flea powder. Advantix is also a good spot on option because unlike frontline, it is capable of repelling ticks and keeping them away before the actual tick bite. We highly recommend a more natural tick repellants such as "Spray Away Citronella Pet Cologne". There are also shampoos available in the market that have citronella components to prevent tick re-infestation.

*\*If all else fails, We recommend our Pest Control. 725-1674*

PENDRAGON ANIMAL HEALTH GROUP INC.

www.pendragonvet.com

www.fb.com/pendragonvetpage

admin@pendragonvet.com

0922VETHELP(8384357)/436-3833/401-9674

## Spray Away Citronella Pet Cologne

tick and flea repellent



Spray away is a citronella based cologne which prevents infestation of ticks and fleas in your dog. And because it is a repellent it protects your pet from tick-borne diseases such as Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, etc. Conventional tick and flea products work to kill the parasites upon contact with your pet or through bathing, by this time these parasites may have already infected your beloved pet. Other tick repellants are pesticide based and may be harmful for your pet. Because Spray Away is citronella based, it's the only anti-tick and flea product that is 100% safe for your pets. Citronella has been proven to have no adverse side effects or toxicity at any dose for 50 YEARS!!!

*\*Spray away is not intended to kill ticks and fleas. It is used as a repellent. Should your pet already be infested with ticks and fleas, we recommend that you use another product to eradicate the parasites before using this product.\**

### Directions for use:

"Spray Away" is very easy to use. Just spray it into your pet right before their walk of before a trip. It Gives Protection for up to 3 hours!!

Spray 6-8 inches away from the body (make sure to spray the belly and leg areas)

Weight	Pumps
Small Dogs	1-2 pumps
Medium Dogs	3-5 pumps
Large Dogs	6-8 pumps



### Price Lists:

- 50ml - P100.00
- 100ml - P180.00
- 250ml - P390.00

*\*Free Delivery for a minimum purchase of P1000.00\**

Available only at Pendragon Veterinary Clinic  
(02) 4363833/0922VETHELP  
admin@pendragonvet.com  
www.pendragonvet.com

## Ehrlichiosis

a dreaded blood parasite

*Ehrlichiosis has been, by far, one of our "bestsellers" in our hospital practice. It estimates about half of the infectious cases each month.*

**What is Ehrlichiosis? How do we, as dog owners protect our pets from it? Is it zoonotic (transferable to humans)?**  
*This article aims to answer these questions and hopes to inform all you dog lovers out there to avoid the occurrence of the disease.*

**Ehrlichiosis is a disease caused by the blood parasite Ehrlichia sp. It inhabits and destroys circulating white blood cells.**

### How is it transmitted?

It is transmitted through the bite of the common brown tick. One infected tick is enough to transmit the disease to your dog.

### What should dog owners look out for?

Clinical symptoms may include, epistaxis (nose bleeding – common in German Shepherds), splenomegaly (enlargement of the spleen), hepatomegaly (enlargement of the liver), edema of the limbs (nagmamans), bloody diarrhea usually black in color (indicating the presence of digested blood), vomiting (with or without blood). These are common symptoms found in a dog with Ehrlichiosis, however, some dogs may not show signs at all. If you have a dog you suspect has Ehrlichiosis or has been diagnosed to have ehrlichiosis, its best to have all the dogs within your household checked as well. Many do not show signs until it is too late.

### What should my vet be checking for?

First off, your vet should be doing a complete physical examination. He/she should be checking all the vital signs, the eyes, ears etc. It is especially important to check the mucus membranes and the capillary refill time to gauge whether you dog is anemic or not. Skin turgor is also checked for possible dehydrations. Then abdominal palpation is done. A skilled veterinarian should be able to determine whether your dog has abdominal organ enlargements such as those mentioned above. A CBC (complete blood count) should be done to give a better idea of the internal situation of the body. Dogs with Ehrlichiosis usually show a decrease in platelet and white blood cell count. Ultimately if bleeding is great, red blood cell counts will also decrease. A blood smear will give an idea of the type of anemia your pet has, and if you're lucky the ehrlichia parasite may be visible. However, visual diagnosis on smear of Ehrlichiosis is extremely rare and it is unlikely that a confirmatory diagnosis can be done through a blood smear. The recommended confirmatory diagnosis to ehrlichiosis is an ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay) test which can be done by your local veterinarian. An ELISA tests for your pet's antibodies against Ehrlichiosis.



It follows the concept that if the infection is there, then the body responds to the infection by creating antibodies. Therefore, no antibodies means no infection. However, there are instances such as when the patient is immunocompromised that this may not be the case. Immunocompromised patients may show false negative results due to their inability to produce antibodies despite the presence of the disease. Another limitation of antibody test kits is that these tests are unable to detect disease during its early stages. For example, a patient showing symptoms of Ehrlichiosis after being infected (or bitten by an infected tick) only 3 days before will most likely show a negative result for this test since it takes about 2-3 weeks for an antibody response to be produced by the body. There are also other tests in the market that may confirm Ehrlichiosis and these are rapid immunoassay test which also checks for antibodies. Rapid test kits are similar to pregnancy test kits for humans which show two lines for a positive result and one line for a negative one. These tests are not as sensitive as that of the ELISA and are unable to give an estimate of when the patient was infected by the disease. Due to specific limitations of other Rapid test assays, we prefer and recommend the use of the ELISA tests at Pendragon. This test may be a bit expensive but in the long run it could end up saving you a lot of money as well as your pet's life.

#### **How to avoid ehrlichiosis? Is there a vaccine?**

Unfortunately there is currently no vaccine in the market, although there is one currently being studied; and the only prevention of the disease is proper maintenance and sanitation.

Make sure that your dog remains tick free and the surrounding areas uncontaminated. For maintenance, you can give your dog a bath regularly at least once a week with anti-tick soaps and shampoos. You could also use anti-tick and flea powders, collars or sprays to repel ticks and prevent them from attaching to your pet. We recommend the use of Spray Away Citronella Pet Cologne for this. This product is safe to use and effective.

Also make sure you regularly clean the area where your pet most frequently stays. Spraying with organo-phosphates and pesticides will kill the ticks and fleas, however, please use these products with extreme caution since these are poisonous to both

humans and dogs. We advise that the dogs and children not be present during spraying of these areas and that they are not let loose in the area for at least half a day. Lastly, Ehrlichiosis, although in rare immunocompromised individuals, can be transferred to humans so be sure to take care in handling infected dogs.



## **Your dog has just been diagnosed with Ehrlichiosis.**

### **What are some things that you need to know about treating your dog for the disease?**

The drug of choice for treating Ehrlichiosis is Doxycycline. Although other drugs such as quinolones and imidocarb dipropionate. Other drugs, however, have been known to be unsuccessful in treating Ehrlichiosis. In chronic cases of Ehrlichiosis, drugs may be used in combination to treat the disease.

Successful treatment of Ehrlichiosis does not mean that your pet has lifelong immunity against the disease. Once your pet is cured, it can be re-infected through tick bites or through blood contact. Contaminated needles may also transfer the disease, therefore always make sure that needles used to vaccinate your pet is new and unused. Because your pet may be re-infected with Ehrlichiosis, it is important to make sure that ALL ticks within your pet as well as the surrounding area are eradicated. (refer to tick and flea control article). Also, dogs within the same household should be tested for Ehrlichiosis and treated accordingly as well. Negative dogs may be given prophylactic doses instead.

Diagnosis is done through ELISA testing, although rather costly, it is best to do that test since ELISA test results prior to medications are compared to ELISA test results 9-12 months later to be able to clear your pet.



Complete Blood and platelet counts are done prior midway and post treatment as a gauge as to whether your pet is improving from the medications prescribed. Pets that do not seem to have improvements in the blood counts may either have a resistant strain to the antibiotic prescribed or may be experiencing bone marrow suppression. In either case, these tests are important to properly determine the response of the pet to treatment. Liver (ALT/AST) tests ideally is also done to ensure that the patient has no liver damage. Liver damage is common occurrence in Ehrlichiosis cases. Liver Tonics and special prescription diets are concurrently prescribed with the treatment depending on liver enzymes result. However it is still best to put the patients on hepatic prescription diet as well as liver tonics as precautionary measure. Doxycycline is normally the drug of choice for this disease. It is prescribed from 28 days up to 3 months depending on the response to the medication of the patient. During this time, pets should be kept on a low fat diet. They must not be given any dairy products such as milk, yogurt, cheese, etc. Antacids and Calcium supplements must also be avoided.

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## **"Tick and Flea Problems"**

Having problems dealing with your pet's ticks and flea infestation?

This Treatment regimen is the most effective I've seen so far. It can keep your Kennel clean for up to 1 year. It might cost a little more than your regular asuntol spray, but its definitely more effective and safer, plus you won't need your local pest control to come in for treatment. In some ways, its even better than hiring a pest control company since they won't treat your dogs and the environment.

This is the treatment regimen i use:

1. Treat the pets
2. Treat the backyard or outside of the house
3. Treat the inside of the house
4. Keep the ticks and fleas away from your Pets

### **Treat the pets.**

So far, *Fipronil* is the best anti-tick and flea (whether spot-on or spray) that i have been able to use on my dogs. The only problem is that the tick or flea has to bite and suck blood first before *fipronil* kills them. Secondly the effectivity of *fipronil* is dependent on the severity of the infestation. The more ticks you have, the shorter the protective time span of *fipronil*. This is why in severe infestation, I advise that the dog be given a bath with anti-tick soap to at least decrease the quantity of ticks before using *fipronil*. This makes it more economical since a bar of *Anti-Tick soap* usually costs about Php150. I prefer to use the ones in the clinic and not the ones bought in the grocery since the concentration is stronger for the prescription ones. Once the ticks decrease after a bath or two, *Fipronil* is applied. Remember *Fipronil* must be applied two days after the bath to maintain frontline in the body. Again, if infestation is severe, I suggest the use of *Fipronil* spray instead of spot on

