

Glossary of Terms

BIRTH DEFECTS

Puppy Strangles (Juvenile Pyoderma): Sudden painful swelling of lips, eyelids, ears, and face, and in severe cases, draining sores, crusts, and sinus tracks.

Cleft palate: Congenital hole or slit in the mouth roof.

Hydrocephalus: An accumulation of fluid in the brain causing severe pressure and brain degeneration.

Swimmer: A flat (chested) puppy that resembles a turtle; legs stick out to the sides instead of underneath. Caused by a weakness of muscles that pull the legs together.

Anasarca: Severe subcutaneous edema (fluid under the skin) completely surrounding the body. Puppy is so large most require C-section for birth.

BLOOD

Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia: A faulty immune system response resulting in destruction of red blood cells causing anemia.

Immune mediated Thrombocytopenia: A faulty immune system response resulting in decreased blood platelets causing blood-clotting problems.

von Willebrand's disease: Prolonged bleeding time due to a specific clotting factor deficiency.

BONE AND JOINT

Arthritis: Marked stiffening of the joints.

Fracture: Broken bone.

Hip Dysplasia: Abnormal formation of the hip socket can cause rear limb lameness.

Legg-Calve-Perthes: Aseptic necrosis of the head and neck of femur; causes rear leg lameness.

Osteochondritis Dissecans: Aseptic necrosis of bone under joint cartilage causes lameness.

Panosteitis: Inflammation of bones typified by sudden onset of mild, shifting lameness.

Patellar Luxation: Displacement of the patella (knee cap). Laterally, to the outside side of the knee; medially, to the inside side of the knee.

CARDIOVASCULAR (Heart)

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF): Fluid in the lungs resulting from inadequate pumping of blood by the heart.

Endocarditis: Inflammation of the lining of the heart.

Heart murmurs: Caused by turbulence as blood flows through a portion of the heart; usually the result of diseased or malformed heart valve(s).

Hypertension: High blood pressure.

Mitral valve dysplasia: Hereditary defect of the mitral valve, which is present at birth.

Mitral valve insufficiency: Acquired defect of the mitral valve seen in older dogs.

Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA): Failure of the ductus arteriosus (a fetal blood vessel which allows blood to bypass the non-functional lungs), to close resulting in increased demand on the left ventricle, to maintain normal blood flow.

Valvular endocarditis: Heart inflammation due to a bacterial infection of a heart valve(s).

DERMATOLOGIC (Skin)

Atopic Dermatitis: Hypersensitivity to pollens or other environmental allergens resulting in skin inflammation.

Hot spots: Self induced traumatic skin disease.

Mange (Demodicosis): Severe Demodex mite infestation related to an immune response dysfunction.

Recurrent Pyoderma: Pus-forming bacterial infection of the skin.

Sarcoptic Mange (canine scabies): Highly contagious skin mite disease. Usually seen on the underside of the body and along ear edges. Causes intense itching.

Seborrhea oleosa: Excessive production of skin oil (sebum) leading to greasy deposits of yellowish-brown scales on skin/hair giving dog a rancid, offensive odor.

Seborrhea sicca: Dry, waxy, scaly dermatitis; dandruff.

ENDOCRINE

Addison's Disease: Underproduction of steroids by the adrenal glands. Most common signs include loss of appetite, vomiting, weakness, and lethargy.

Cushing's Disease: Overproduction of steroids by the adrenal glands. Signs include increased water consumption and urination, excessive eating, weakness & malaise.

Diabetes Mellitus: Insulin deficiency. Signs include increased appetite, water intake, frequency and volume of urine, and weight loss.

Hyperthyroidism: Over production of thyroid hormone typified by ravenous appetite, weight loss, increased water intake and urination, and hyperactivity.

Hypothyroidism: Thyroid hormone deficiency typified by mental dullness, lethargy, and weight gain. Affects other body systems.

EYE

Cataracts: Lens opacity that obscures vision and may cause blindness.

Corneal Dystrophy: Corneal opacity, which obscures vision and may cause blindness.

Ectopic Cilia (aberrant cilia): Eyelashes are abnormally located on the under-surface of the eyelid.

Ectropion: Turning out of the eyelid(s) exposing the eye to irritants.

(more listings on reverse side)

Entropion: Turning inward of a portion of the eyelid causing the eyelashes to rub on the eyeball.

Glaucoma: Increased pressure in the eyeball, which can damage the optic nerve and result in blindness.

Karatoconjunctivitis Sicca (dry eye): Inadequate tear production.

Lens Luxation: Dislocation of the lens from its normal site behind the cornea (partial or complete).

Optic Nerve Coloboma: A defect in the optic nerve disc, which may cause blindness or vision impairment.

Persistent Pupillary Membranes PPMs: Failure of blood vessels in the anterior chamber to regress normally; there may be impaired vision or blindness.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA): Degeneration of the retinal vision cells, which progresses to blindness.

Retinal Dysplasia: Large areas of abnormally developed retina, along with detachment of the retina causing blindness.

Retinal Folds: Folds in the retina due to faulty development.

GI TRACT (stomach/intestines)

Anal Sac Infection: Blood or pus in anal secretions.

Bloat: Swelling up of the stomach with gas, food or both that cannot be expelled. May involve the stomach twisting on itself.

Colitis: Inflammation of the large intestines resulting in diarrhea.

Inflammatory bowel disease: A group of chronic large and small intestine diseases classified according to type and location of bowel inflammation.

Pancreatic insufficiency: Lack of digestive enzymes resulting in inability to digest or absorb food in the small intestine.

Pancreatitis: Inflammation of the pancreas. Presents with lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, and abdominal pain.

IMMUNE SYSTEM

Autoimmune: An inappropriate immune response, directed against any of the body's own tissues.

Immune-mediated: Any condition wherein harmful effects are caused by the immune system.

Immune-mediated polyarthritis: Multiple inflamed joints caused by a faulty immune system response.

Lupus Erythematosus (systemic): A disturbance of certain immune defense mechanisms affecting multiple body systems.

Myasthenia Gravis: A disease characterized by muscle weakness.

Pemphigus: A skin disease characterized by pustules.

LIVER, SPLEEN, GALL BLADDER

Copper Toxicosis: Abnormal deposition or accumulation of copper in the liver causes cirrhosis.

Hepatitis (Infectious Canine): Highly contagious viral disease affecting liver, kidneys and blood vessels.

Hepatoportal Microvascular Dysplasia: A congenital disorder of the hepatic vasculature.

Liver Hemochromatosis: A disorder of iron metabolism typified by liver dysfunction, an excess of iron in body organs and diabetes mellitus.

Portosystemic Shunt: Blood vessel communications between the portal and systemic venous systems present at birth do not close off properly resulting in blood not passing through the liver for detoxification.

NEUROLOGIC

Cerebellar Ataxia: Degeneration of the cortex of the cerebellum leading to a staggering gait.

Cerebellar Degeneration: Degenerative disease of the cerebellum. Progressive signs include incoordination and paralysis.

Cerebrospinal Demyelination: Progressive loss of the fatty sheath covering the nerves causing incoordination and spastic paralysis of the hind limbs.

Globoid Cell Leukodystrophy (GCL): Degenerative disease of the brain and spinal cord.

Multisystem Chromatolytic Neuronal Degeneration (MCND): Degenerative disease of the nervous system.

Myeloencephalopathy: Degeneration of parts of the brain leading to ataxia and paralysis.

Seizures: Sudden, uncontrolled burst of activity, which typically shows foaming at the mouth, collapse, jerking of the legs, and loss of urine and stool, followed by loss of consciousness, then a gradual return to normal.

Seizures – Epilepsy (genetic): A genetic brain disorder resulting in seizures.

Seizures (acquired): Resulting from such things as a blow to the head, or scars from healed brain injuries, encephalitis, poisonings, brain malformations, tumors or hypoglycemia.

REPRODUCTIVE – BITCHES

Agalactia: Absence or failure of the secretion of milk.

Dystocia: Prolonged labor.

Eclampsia: Sudden, life threatening syndrome resulting from decreased blood calcium typified by restlessness, nervousness, pacing, panting, whining, and loss of maternal instincts. Can progress to severe muscle spasms, fever, rapid heart rate, and seizures.

Pyometra: Overwhelming growth of bacteria in uterus.

REPRODUCTIVE – DOGS

Cryptorchidism: Developmental defect in which one or both testicles has not descended into the scrotum.

URINARY TRACT

Ectopic Ureters: Ureters do not properly attach to the bladder, causing dribbling.

Polycystic Kidneys (Normal Livers): Large cysts occur in kidney, causing malfunction and death.