

MASTITIS IN DOGS

What is Mastitis in Dogs

Mastitis in dogs is inflammation of the mammary glands (breasts), with or without infection. It most commonly occurs after giving birth, following abrupt weaning. Bacterial infection is the most common cause of mastitis. Bacteria most often enters into the gland through wounds around the nipples. This disease should be treated as soon as possible as severe infections (gangrenous) can occur.

Mastitis Symptoms in Dogs

Some symptoms to watch out for include:

- Warm, red/discoloured, swollen, firm, ulcerated mammary gland(s). Touching the affected gland(s) may be painful for the dog.
- Discoloured, thick milk from the affected glands
- If there is a bad infection present, the dog may be inappetant and be lethargic with a fever.
- May notice a decrease in condition of any puppies still feeding.

Diagnosis of Mastitis

If there are significant symptoms present, diagnosis may be straightforward. Blood and milk testing may be utilized to assist with diagnosis. Biopsy of the tissue may rarely be required.

Treatment of Mastitis

Depending on the severity and type of mastitis present, various treatments may be suggested. Sometimes antibiotics, pain relief and compresses (warm and/or cabbage leaf) may be sufficient. For more severe cases, hospitalization and surgical intervention may be required. Weaning the puppies is often not recommended but it may have to be considered in severe cases.