



8 CURIOSITIES TO PREVENT SAND FLY-BORNE DISEASES

Climate change is reshaping the geographical landscape of sand flies into new regions. These tiny, hairy-winged insects feed on blood, becoming vectors for phleboviruses and parasites. These pathogens are responsible for diseases like summer meningitis and leishmaniasis, affecting both humans and animals, including dogs.

This document aims to increase awareness, particularly in new areas where the risk of failing to recognise these infections is high. It seeks to disseminate preventive measures to safeguard yourself and your loved ones from the potential impact of sand fly-borne diseases.

Sand flies are active at night

The parasite is transmitted by infectious bites of Phlebotomine sand flies. Sand flies tend to bite most frequently during hours around dusk and dawn.

01

Leishmania can affect dogs and humans

Leishmaniasis is a preventable parasitic disease that affects both humans and animals, primarily dogs. The disease can be fatal if not successfully treated.

02

Clinical signs in dogs

Dogs with skin lesions, hair loss, or unexplained weight loss should be evaluated by a veterinarian for possible *Leishmania* infection.

03

Symptoms in humans

Leishmaniasis symptoms in humans range from skin sores with raised edges (cutaneous) to nasal and throat involvement (mucocutaneous) or prolonged fever and organ enlargement (visceral).

04



Protect yourself and your pet

The use of protective clothing, commercial repellent, and topical insecticides. To protect dogs against sand fly bites use pour-on formulations and insecticide-impregnated collars.

05

Minimize the presence of sand flies

Keep your pet's living area clean and free from debris. Proper disposal of garbage and waste also help prevent the attraction of sand flies to domestic settings

06

Treatment in dogs

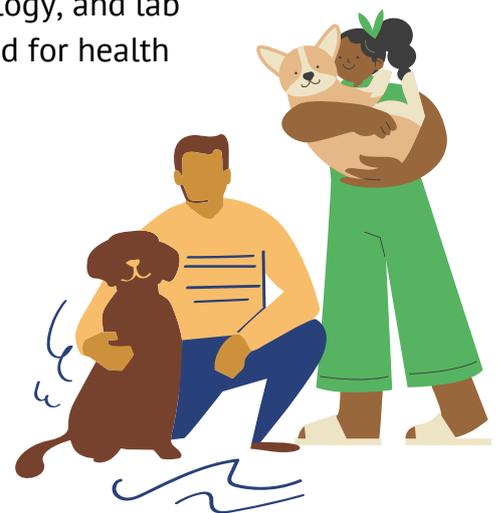
Dogs can be vaccinated to reduce the likelihood of developing the disease in some regions. Treatment is often successful but not always guaranteed.

07

Healthy immune system

Even after recovery, dogs previously affected by leishmaniasis might still carry the parasite. Maintain preventive measures, including regular follow-ups with your vet including, physical exams, *Leishmania* serology, and lab analyses. Nutritional supplements are also good for health support!

08



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