

# FACT SHEET: LEISHMANIOSIS

Give rescue dogs with Leishmaniosis a chance!

Learn the facts.

## LIVING WITH A LEISH DOG:

Chris and Joe from Elysium Animal Rescue - Cyprus have fostered and rehomed many dogs with Leishmaniosis. They have also adopted a dog of their own who lives with the disease. Here is their experience:-

*"We adopted Mac knowing that he had Leishmaniosis, but we knew very little about it. Thankfully he is asymptomatic and only needs one cheap tablet a day and blood tests every few months. Therefore it did not affect our decision to adopt him. Mac continues to take his medication daily and shows no signs of the disease or related symptoms at all. In fact Mac's latest blood tests show that the levels in his blood are so low that he may be able to come off the medication soon. Other than these regular checks/tablets Mac is a wonderful, loving, friendly and gentle dog who behaves and is treated exactly like our 'non-leish' dogs. He is expected to live a full and active life. He is an amazing dog with a great character and that is all we see in him. Knowing what we do now about this disease, we would not think twice about adopting another dog with Leishmaniosis!"*

## HOW DO WE TREAT DOGS WITH LEISH?

Dogs with Leishmaniosis can be infected but not display any symptoms. The infection can remain dormant and activate at any time. In these cases, the only way to confirm infection is through a blood test. All dogs rescued by Elysium Animal Rescue - Cyprus are tested for the disease as soon as they are found so that if treatment is required, it can start immediately.

We have rescued many dogs who have shown symptoms of Leishmaniosis. Some of the symptoms we have seen have been; skin conditions, eye problems, poor kidney function, nose bleeds and vomiting & diarrhoea. With effective treatment from our vet over time, these symptoms were corrected and the dog nursed back to good health. We saw this in so many of our dogs and the transformation has been amazing. Many of these dogs have gone on to find their Forever Homes and live an active and fulfilled life. At Elysium Animal Rescue - Cyprus when we rescue a dog that tests positive for Leish or shows symptoms of the disease, only after initial treatment is completed will they be made available for adoption. Once treated, it is necessary for the dog to remain on daily Allopurinol tablets for the rest of their life. These tablets can be bought very inexpensively online in the UK with a Vet prescription, for around only £5-£6 per month.

## WHAT IS LEISHMANIOSIS?

Leishmaniosis is a disease caused by protozoan parasites of the genus Leishmania and transmitted through the bites of female sandflies. It is most common in warmer countries such as the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The risk to humans and other animals from an infected dog are very low, and as the sandfly needed to transmit the disease is not prevalent in the UK, infections transmitted to humans is extremely rare!

## WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

If you don't have a vet already, we recommend you look for a vet who is familiar with Leish. Many UK vets don't have much experience and as your dog will need regular blood tests and prescriptions it will be helpful to have an informed vet that you can build a good relationship with. We also recommend insuring your dog with an insurer that covers pre-existing conditions. For example K9 Cover, Many Pets and Petsure  
**YOU END UP WITH A BEAUTIFUL, LOVING AND AFFECTIONATE DOG THAT CAN LIVE A FULL AND ACTIVE LIFE**

If you have any further questions or would like any further information please email [admin@elysiumanimalrescue.org](mailto:admin@elysiumanimalrescue.org) or contact us through our Social Media

