

FACT SHEET

Anaemia

Anaemia is the name given to a condition where there is a reduction in the amount of red blood cells in the body. Red blood cells are responsible for the transport of oxygen in the body via the haemoglobin, and if the overall amount is reduced it results in weakness and fatigue.

Causes

There are many different conditions that can cause anaemia including serious conditions such as Leukaemia or a toxicity resulting from a drug treatment. However it is often due to simple blood loss, from either a wound or parasite infestation. Certain nutrient deficiencies such as Iron and Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin) can also result in anaemia although this is extremely rare.

Signs and symptoms

The signs are very pale, sometimes white, mucous membranes, which can be noticed in a dog around the gums. The dog is unlikely to have any energy, and is lethargic, depressed and extremely weak.

Treatment

The first method of treatment is to establish and remove the cause. Often with young puppies and kittens the cause is due to an infestation of fleas draining them of their blood. These fleas need to be eliminated in a safe, non-toxic way, such as bathing to prevent further blood loss before commencing further treatment.

How can Naturediet help?

A diet rich in iron, protein and vitamin B12 is an important factor in helping with the recovery from anaemia. Naturediet Lamb or Naturediet Puppy/Junior are suitable diets for this condition as they are rich in vitamin B12 and iron, containing a high quality protein source that is easily digestible and high in biological value.

Often a dog with anaemia is so weak that he is reluctant to eat. The appetite can be stimulated when feeding Naturediet by heating the product, releasing the aroma, which stimulates the appetite and encourages the dog to eat. Offering small frequent meals will aid in improving appetite.

Once the appetite returns and the underlying cause is resolved, a good quality natural balanced diet such as Naturediet should be all that is required to put your dog back on the road to complete recovery.

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