



Dogs owners warned to stay alert as season for mystery dog illness approaches



During autumn 2009 and 2010, several dogs which had been walked in woodlands suddenly became ill. In some cases, dogs did not recover. Cases of the illness, named Seasonal Canine Illness (SCI), are generally seen from August to November. Dog owners are advised to remain vigilant during this time and seek immediate advice from a vet if you are concerned about your dog.

What is being done to tackle SCI?

The Animal Health Trust (AHT) was alerted to SCI in September 2010 and in October 2010, we launched an investigation. We are focussing on four sites – Sandringham Estate and Thetford Forest in Norfolk and Clumber Park and Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. We have also been made aware of other potentially affected areas. These are listed on our website at www.aht.org.uk

As part of the investigation, more than 370 questionnaires have been completed and returned to us. Almost 20 per cent of these have been from owners whose dogs have shown signs of SCI.

Unfortunately the data collected to date has not pinpointed a single causative factor. In 2011, we intend to continue our investigation and collect further data which will hopefully lead to the identification of this mystery killer.

Although our investigation has focused on the four areas mention, we would like to stress that **we do not believe dogs are at any more risk walking at these sites than at any other woodland sites.** In the unlikely event of your dog falling ill, please seek veterinary advice as soon as possible

SCI - WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

If you have walked in woodland and notice the following signs in your dog/s, please contact a vet immediately:

Vomiting  Diarrhoea  Lethargy

Clinical signs come on incredibly quickly, within a few hours, of access to woodland.



If you have walked your dog/s in any of the areas listed below during autumn 2011:
Sandringham Estate or Thetford Forest, Norfolk
Clumber Park or Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire
and would like to help the AHT with our investigation, please visit www.aht.org.uk or email info@aht.org.uk



For the latest information on SCI, please visit www.aht.org.uk