

capsules

THE CURRENT LITERATURE IN BRIEF

Persistent UTI: Not the Usual Suspects

Several *Mycoplasma* species can be found in the lower urinary tract of healthy dogs, making it difficult to interpret culture studies from dogs with urinary tract infections (UTIs). However, *Mycoplasma canis* has been implicated in some cases of persistent urinary tract disease. In this study, 9 dogs with persistent UTI were analyzed for *Mycoplasma canis* (a total of 11 specimens were taken). All 9 dogs had infestations of *Mycoplasma canis*. However, in 3 of the dogs, mycoplasma was cultivated only from urinary sediments, resulting in lower-than-expected numbers for indication of UTI. Of the 4 dogs that were not euthanized for multiple disease conditions, the 2 females were completely cured with tetracycline alone but the 2 males (although repeatedly treated with tetracycline) recovered fully only after castration.

COMMENTARY: Although involved in less than 2% of UTIs, mycoplasma should be considered when clinical signs persist after antimicrobials other than tetracycline have been tried. For intact male dogs, doxycycline may be the best treatment choice for *Mycoplasma* species because of better prostatic penetration. *Mycoplasma canis* will grow on standard blood agar but many *Mycoplasma* and *Ureaplasma* species will not. Thus, such infections may go unrecognized. Even low quantitative counts of *Mycoplasma canis* in the urine may represent significant infection.—*David F. Senior, BVSc, Diplomate ACVIM & ECVIM*

Mycoplasma canis and urogenital disease in dogs in Norway. L'Abée-Lund TM, Heiene R, Friis F, Ahrens P, Sørum H. VET REC 153:231-235, 2003..