



# Information for exhibitors of Canidae species

## *Exhibited Animals Act 2015*

Exhibitors of Canidae species are urged to look out for signs of canine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia canis*), a serious dog disease.

In May 2020, a small number of domesticated dogs in the Halls Creek and Kununurra areas of Western Australia were identified as being the first domestic dogs in Australia to have canine ehrlichiosis (*E.canis*). Further detections have occurred in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and *E. canis* has been confirmed in domesticated dogs in most of the Northern Territory and in northern South Australia.

In early 2022, a case was confirmed in a dog in northwest Queensland.

Dogs can become infected when they're bitten by a tick infected with *Ehrlichia canis*, typically the brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*). Dogs infected with *E. canis* can develop serious illness and die.

Clinical findings vary in dogs but can include:

- fever
- lethargy
- enlarged lymph nodes
- loss of appetite
- weight loss
- bleeding disorders
- discharge from the eyes or nose.

*E. canis* can also infect other species of the Canidae family, such as foxes. Little is known about the susceptibility of dingoes to infection with *E. canis*, but it is assumed they may be susceptible to infection and may demonstrate signs like those of domestic dogs.

## Report suspect cases

*E. canis* infection is nationally notifiable. If you suspect the presence of this disease in a dog, dingo or other Canidae (e.g. fox) in Queensland, seek veterinary advice and report it to **Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23** or the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

## Further information

For more information visit Biosecurity Queensland's website or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

