Update on Leishmaniasis Diagnosed in the U.S.
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November 2000 News

In July, 2000 we reported that leishmaniasis had been diagnosed in Foxhounds in New York. The disease has now been diagnosed in dogs in 21 states and southern Canada. Leishmaniasis is caused by the protozoa *Leishmania* and can infect dogs and humans. Until now, it was rarely diagnosed in the United States.

Symptoms of leishmaniasis in dogs include skin lesions, nose bleeds, swollen lymph nodes, weight loss, seizures, hair loss, kidney failure, and swollen limbs and joints. A special diagnostic blood test for canine leishmaniasis is available through the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University.

Outside the United States, sand flies are responsible for transmitting the disease. How this disease is transmitted from dog to dog in the United States is not known. If and how people in the United States can become infected is also not completely known. To better understand the spread of this disease, several investigations are underway. Blood from Foxhounds, stray dogs, and people at risk of this disease (Foxhound handlers, trainers and hunters) is being collected and tested for the presence of leishmaniasis.

We will continue to keep you informed about the prevalence of this potentially fatal disease in dogs.