

Dogs

FADING PUPPIES

(Fading Puppy Syndrome, Neonatal Mortality)

Category: Immediate veterinary attention necessary.

Puppies up to two weeks of age can be affected by this rather complex condition. The whole litter are usually born both healthy and vigorous and suckle well for the first 24 hours or so.

The cause may be due to a single factor or a number of factors combining together. These include bacterial infection (commonly *E. coli* or *Streptococcus*), toxoplasmosis, various viruses (including *Parvovirus* and *Distemper*), heavy worm infestation, chilling, congenital reasons or just insufficient care and feeding from the dam. Supplementary feeding with an appropriate canine milk substitute and plenty of warmth are essential if any of the affected puppies are to be saved.

Main Symptoms

Sudden onset. Some puppies (it may not be the whole litter), become distressed, cry out a lot, cease to suck the dam, rapidly lose weight and become weak. Cold to the touch, muscular tremors, stretching of the limbs and spine, blood in the urine and possibly diarrhoea or fits may follow, leading eventually to coma and death.

In addition to treatment given by the vet, homeopathic remedies can be beneficially used to support and help to build up the puppies' strength to combat the condition. It is quite safe to administer the appropriate remedy to even very young puppies.

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Treatment

Useful for weak puppies who are both dehydrated and debilitated.

An alternative to Phosphoric Acid if there is prostration in addition to the symptoms outlined above.

For restless, cold, weak puppies, I possibly with diarrhoea.

If the puppies are collapsed and appear close to death.

Phosphoric Acid 6c or 30c.

Dose every 10-15 minutes for the first hour and then every 2-4 hours for the next day or two, if necessary, until improved.

China 3c or 6c. Dose as for Phosphoric Acid above.

Arsenicum Album 6c or 30c.

Dose as for Phosphoric Acid.

Carbo Vegetabilis 6c or 30c.

Dose every 5—15 minutes for up to 4-6 doses and then if improving change to another remedy indicated by the presenting symptoms.

Prevention

Nosodes. These may be given to the dam, under the supervision of a homeopathic vet before subsequent whelpings, if the cause is known.

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FALSE PREGNANCY (Phantom or Pseudopregnancy)

Category: Veterinary diagnosis and treatment required if the condition has not been encountered before. Homeopathic remedies are useful in the treatment of this condition.

False pregnancy is probably due to hormonal imbalance. It tends to occur 6-9 weeks after the 'season' or 'heat' in bitches that have not been mated. Less commonly it may be seen only 3-4 weeks after a season.

Main Symptoms

Mammary gland development and the production of milk are two common symptoms. These may be accompanied to varying degrees by restlessness, whining, nervousness, digging and 'mothering', i.e. 'bed-making' and the taking of small household objects (socks, toys etc.) to the bed. Less commonly there may be some depression or even aggression, with objects being guarded or 'nursed' as if they were puppies. When the condition occurs soon after the season there may be increased appetite, sluggishness and an apparent swelling of the abdomen.

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FALSE PREGNANCY
(Phantom or Pseudopregnancy)

Most useful remedy for this condition.

Pulsatilla 30c. Dose three times daily for 5-7 days and repeat after a week only if necessary.

The remedy of choice if there are signs of indifference, depression, nervousness or aggression.

Sepia 30c. Dose three times daily for 5—7 days and repeat after a week only if necessary.

Asafoetida may be an alternative for restless, irritable or nervous bitches. Urtica, Calcarea Carbonica or Bryonia can be used to reduce the production of milk. These remedies should only be used under the guidance of a (homeopathic vet.

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**HEPATITIS
(Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Rubarth's Disease)**

See

also 'Hepatitis', page 94.

Category: Immediate veterinary attention required. This disease is caused by a virus and is highly infectious. In many cases it can be fatal.

Main Symptoms

Loss of appetite, generally unwell. Temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, pale mucous membranes which may show small red spots (haemorrhages), sometimes jaundice (due to liver inflammation) and nervous signs. The disease may vary from mild to hyperacute and there may be 'blueing' of the eye as the animal recovers ('blue-eye' - corneal oedema).

Conventional vaccines are manufactured to prevent this disease and these are the reason why the condition is relatively uncommon to-day. However the disease still exists and flares up from time to time in unvaccinated dogs that roam the streets and in those that end up in kennels for stray dogs. Vaccination of all puppies should be very seriously considered. In recent years it seems that some dogs have shown allergic reactions to vaccination, causing permanent damage to the eyes ('blue-eye') and/or skin and other problems. The use of vaccines and annual boosters should be discussed with the vet.

Homeopathic nosodes (see page 6) are available for the prevention of infectious canine hepatitis and their use and dosage regime should be discussed with a homeopathic vet before it is decided to use them instead of conventional vaccination.

Treatment

Homeopathic remedies can be useful in treating all the secondary symptoms of the disease, such as vomiting and diarrhoea, and these are to be found under the relevant headings under 'General Conditions'.