



Ascites In Dogs

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Introduction

Ascites is a pathological condition that usually affects your furry friend. Moreover, almost every breed of dog is susceptible to this condition. It is therefore every pet parent should have basic knowledge about this detrimental condition of their beloved pet. As an aware pet parent, one should be aware of the signs and symptoms of ascites and the treatment if unfortunately, their beloved pet suffers from this disease.

What Is Ascites?

Ascites is a pathological condition in which there is an accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity which leads to swelling of the belly of your pet. generally, it is also known as swollen belly condition of dogs. The abdomen of dogs contains many organs including the liver, kidney, spleen, stomach, intestines, bladder, and others but in healthy animal normally very little fluid that is present outside one of these structures. in the case of ascites, these organs will be surrounded by fluid that is freely floating around in the abdomen.

What are the causes of Ascites?

There are mainly five causes which predisposes to this condition.

- Liver damage
- Kidney damage
- Congestive heart failure 4- Heartworm infection
- Hypoproteinemia

Other causes may also cause this condition are internal bleeding, bladder rupture, cancer, and peritonitis.

What are the signs and symptoms of Ascites?

The most common signs showed by your pet if he or she is having ascites are Swollen abdomen, Lethargy, Difficulty breathing, Panting, Weight gain, decreased appetite, vomiting, Discomfort, and dehydration.

How the disease can be diagnosed?

For diagnosing this disease your vet will perform a physical examination of pet-like palpation of the abdomen and he will feel fluid-filled balloon consistency of peritoneal cavity. After that he will assure the condition by doing an X-Ray of the abdomen, Ultrasound, blood test mainly LFT, KFT, and CBC.

What should be the treatment of disease?

Treatment of the condition will depend on the underlying cause of the disease. A general line of treatment includes the use of Antibiotics, Antiemetics, Antihistaminic Diuretics, supplementation of amino acids and multivitamin preparations and fluid therapy for overcoming the effect of dehydration [1-7].

Conclusion

Ascites is the abnormal accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity, characterized by visible abdominal distension with accumulation of fluid. Ascites is really not a disease in and of itself, but a syndrome or clinical sign that arises secondary to some other primary disease like chronic hepatic failure, congestive heart failure, nephritic syndrome, malnutrition, ancylostomiasis and protein losing enteropathy in dogs. Various diagnostic procedures are followed to find out the root cause of the condition. Treatment of ascites is dependent on identification of the cause of ascites.

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