

Phenobarbitone - Responsive Sialadenitis in the Miniature Pinscher

This is a rare condition which has been reported once in a Min Pin in veterinary literature. However, in the last 12 mths I have heard of two possible cases in the UK.

The first was in a Min Pin that had been rehomed by us in Rescue so there were no pedigree papers available, and the second was reported to me in the last few months and I am waiting for pedigree details.

At the moment it is not confirmed as an inherited problem but it does seem to be seen mainly in small dogs worldwide. The symptoms are as follows:

Vomiting, retching, gagging.

Lip smacking, drooling

Pain in throat

Muscle spasms in neck

Teeth chattering.

Loss of appetite, weight loss

The cause is unknown but may be associated with a form of seizure activity

Treatment with phenobarbitone shows a rapid improvement within 24 - 72 hours , although diagnosis is by biopsy of the salivary gland, if cost is an issue, response to treatment can be taken as a diagnosis.

It is possible that the muscle spasms cause the salivary glands to become inflamed but the underlying cause is unknown.

So we have a rare disease that has been reported in Min Pins - at this stage we do not know the cause and we do not know if there is any genetic basis to the problem. We need to be aware of it so that if one of our Min Pins starts showing the above symptoms we can suggest it as a possible diagnosis as most vets will not be aware of the disease if at all. If anyone has seen these sort of symptoms I would be very interested to hear of it along with the pedigrees of affected dogs is possible.

Breed Health Co Ordinator -Di Stark BVMS MRCVS