

EHRlichiosis COMMS PACKAGE

for Local Government

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Background on AMRRIC

AMRRIC – Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities – is a national not-for-profit organization. Our One Health, One Wellbeing approach recognises the inextricable links between human, animal and environmental health and wellbeing. By working with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia to improve the health of their companion animals, AMRRIC is helping to create healthier, safer, and happier communities.

In the communities where AMRRIC works, access to veterinary services is extremely limited, due to a variety of geographic, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Without veterinary services, the health and welfare of animals suffers, as does the health and wellbeing of community members. AMRRIC works with a range of stakeholders including veterinarians, Regional Councils, and Indigenous corporations, to ensure remote communities have access to culturally appropriate, effective, and consistent veterinary services. We also employ education programs within local schools and other community groups to share knowledge with children and adults about animal health and wellbeing and discuss links to human health and wellbeing. The longer-term objectives of our model are sustainability and capacity building, so that ultimately, communities can confidently and effectively manage their own companion animal populations.

Background on Ehrlichiosis

Ehrlichiosis is a disease of dogs that occurs when a brown dog tick infected with the bacteria, *Ehrlichia canis* (*E. canis*), bites a dog. It can result in death if not properly treated. For more information, please refer to AMRRIC's [Ehrlichiosis FAQs page](#).

How to Use this Package

This package is intended for media & comms usage for Local Governments to spread awareness of Ehrlichiosis amongst their communities.

The package includes templates for community newsletters, community Facebook posts, and posters for distribution. The templates are suggestive only. If you have any questions on the use of this material or any suggestions, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and would love to see how your Local Government is using the educational resources in community.



[TEMPLATE ARTICLE FOR NEWSLETTERS]

A new tick disease - Ehrlichiosis

Dog ticks can cause big problems for dogs. One of these problems is diseases that ticks can spread from dog to dog. A new tick disease has been discovered in Australia. It is called ehrlichiosis (pronounced err-lick-ee-o-sis), and it is spread from dog to dog by ticks.

Dogs that are sick with this new disease get a fever, look very tired, do not want to eat, lose weight, and get skinnier. Their eyes can also go blue and get a lot of mucky stuff on them.

When a dog who has this disease is bitten by a tick, that tick sucks up the bacteria that causes the disease. That tick can then pass these disease-causing bacteria to another dog when it bites them. Without treatment, this disease can make dogs very sick or even kill them.

If there are ticks in your community, it is important that you give your dog medicine to stop the ticks from biting them and spreading these tick diseases. Have a look in your shop for medicine to kill dog ticks. If you do not have these medicines in your shop, speak to your community Animal Management or Environmental Health Worker. Or otherwise, contact your vet or AMRRIC.

If your dog is sick, take the dog to a vet. Dog owners should have their dogs on regular tick medicine, always check their dogs for ticks, and look for signs of the disease. If you think your dog has ehrlichiosis, speak to your community Animal Management or Environmental Health Worker, vet or AMRRIC straight away.



[IMAGES FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLE]



Photo 1- Administering spot-on tick medicine to a dog



Photo 2 – A dog sick with ehrlichiosis. Notice the blue eyes, looking tired, and very skinny



[TEMPLATE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS]

[Post 1]

⚠ ATTENTION – NEW DOG DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA ⚠

There is a new dog disease in Australia that is being spread by dog ticks.

Ticks spread the disease from dog to dog.

This new disease, called #ehrlichiosis, can make your dog very sick. They can get skinny, not want to eat, lose weight, and get blue eyes. Without treatment, this new disease can kill them.

It is important that you give your dog tick medicine, to stop ticks from biting your dog and to stop spreading the disease.

Speak to your local council, Animal Mangement Worker, or @[AMRRIC](#) for more information.



The images below and left can be used for the post – see mail out with links to downloadable image files.



[Post 2]

👁️ Have you seen this? 👁️

There is a new dog disease in Australia called #ehrlichiosis.

It is affecting many dogs in remote communities, especially in northern WA, NT and parts of the APY Lands.

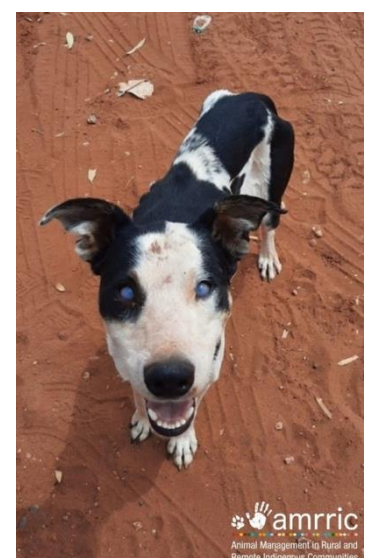
This disease is being spread by dog ticks. It can make dogs very sick and even kill them.

Signs of Ehrlichiosis include dogs not wanting to eat, getting skinny, being tired, and getting blue eyes.

It is important that you give your dog tick medicine, to stop ticks from biting your dog and to stop spreading the disease.

If you are worried about a dog or have any questions, speak to your local council, Animal Management worker, or @[AMRRIC](#) for more information.

The images below and right can be used for the post – see mail out with links to downloadable image files.



[Post 3]

💡 Have you heard of Ehrlichiosis? 💡

This new disease is affecting many dogs in communities.

Spread by ticks, this disease makes dogs not want to eat, lose weight, get skinny, have blue eyes, and can even kill them.

Check out AMRRIC's animation below to learn about this disease, and how you can stop it from spreading.

If you are worried about a dog or have any questions, speak to your local council, Animal Management worker, or @[AMRRIC](#) for more information.

https://www.facebook.com/AMRRIC/videos/401971357596603/?__tn__=%2CO-R

[Copy and past this whole post, including the link, to creat a post from your page with the animation included]



[COMMUNITY POSTERS]

Tick Sickness



There is a new tick sickness called Ehrlichiosis



Dogs get the sickness from ticks. Sick dogs...

- Sleep lots and are tired
- Get skinny
- Don't want to eat food
- Get mucky or cloudy eyes

If your dog looks like sick one and is not feeling good, talk to your Vet, Environmental Health Worker or AMRRIC about medicine for your dog.

 **amrric**
Animal Management in Remote and Remote Indigenous Communities

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Link to online download - <https://www.amrric.org/resources/view/ehrlichiosis-posters/>





Dog Tick Sickness

There is a new tick sickness called **Ehrlichiosis** and it's making **DOGS SICK**



Dogs get the sickness when bitten by a tick that has the Ehrlichiosis germ



Dogs are tired and sleep lots



Dogs don't want to eat



Dogs lose weight and get skinny



Dogs eyes go cloudy

Dogs can die from this sickness!



Stop dogs from getting or spreading tick sickness. Give dogs regular tick medicine.

Link to online download - <https://www.amrric.org/resources/view/ehrlichiosis-posters/>



STOP TICKS

Keep Dogs Healthy

Nexgard is tasty medicine that will help to kill ticks on dogs



Tick collars can also be used with Nexgard

Give tick medicine every month to kill ticks, stop tick sickness and keep dogs happy and healthy!

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Link to online download - <https://www.amrric.org/resources/view/ehrlichiosis-posters/>



4 Ways to Stop TICK SICKNESS



Stop your dog getting tick sickness (Ehrlichiosis)



1. Use a good tick collar like Kiltix or Seresto.



2. Give dogs regular medicine like Nexgard or Bravecto.



3. Keep your grass nice and short and keep dogs away from bushy areas



4. Speak to housing mob and get your house sprayed for ticks.