The most common breeds affected by Central Nervous System (CNS) Inflammation are:

Yorkie
Pug
Chihuahua
Maltese

Those with inquiries are encouraged to contact:

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Central nervous system (CNS) inflammation is a common cause of neurological disease in dogs and cats. The term meningitis is used when the lining surrounding the CNS is affected. The terms encephalitis and myelitis refer to inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, respectively.

Dogs and cats with CNS inflammation can exhibit a variety of abnormalities. These may include behavioral change, weakness, abnormal limb coordination, blindness, and seizures. Some animals can have signs that develop over weeks or months, whereas others appear to be suddenly affected. There are many diseases that can mimic CNS inflammation such as tumors, strokes, malformations, and metabolic abnormalities. Appropriate testing is required to diagnose CNS inflammation and determine the type of inflammatory disease.

Animals suspected of CNS inflammation usually receive blood cell counts, blood chemistry tests, nervous system imaging, spinal fluid evaluation, and testing for infectious disease. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is the preferred means of imaging the CNS. It provides clear pictures of the brain and spinal cord and is the only way to diagnose many diseases that can mimic CNS inflammation, such as stroke. At Texas A&M University, MRIs are acquired and read by radiologists and clinicians with years of experience and a national reputation for innovating this technology.

Research performed at Texas A&M University, the University of Georgia, and elsewhere has highlighted that the majority of dogs with CNS inflammation do not have active infection at the time of diagnosis. Most dogs appear to have abnormal immune system responses, which result in the disease process. Animals with immune-based CNS inflammation often have active infection and may respond to treatment with antibiotics or other drugs.

Some animals with CNS inflammation can have seizure disorders. Although seizures can be distressing to owners, they can usually be controlled (but not entirely eliminated) with medications. Newer anti-seizure drugs are easy to use and likely have fewer side effects when compared to older standard medications.

Finally, animals with CNS inflammation may require intensive care unit-type care if they are severely affected. Treatments may need to be administered that can decrease brain swelling and lower the pressure within the skull. Intravenous treatments to suppress the immune system may also be required. Round the clock nursing care, board certified critical care specialists, and ready access to a team of specialists can be essential in giving this patient group the best chance for recovery.

Did You Know?

About the breed on the cover...

An adorable member of the toy dog group, the Yorkshire Terrier is a mixture of England’s finest terriers, made up of the Clydesdale terrier, English black and tan terrier, waterside terrier, and the Paisley terrier. What a noble background!

By the late 1800s, Yorkies had made their way to America but because there were so many variety of sizes, the Yorkshire Terrier did not make its exclusive name until the early 1900s. It was at this point that the majority of Yorkie breeders decided that the smaller sized Yorkshire Terrier was preferable.

Yorkies have a terrific personality! They are known to be bold, confident, and courageous. Although small in size, they pack a tremendous amount of personality into their small package. And the Yorkshire Terrier seems to be oblivious to its small stature, and you’ll often see them play with much bigger dogs with no fear. Always eager for fun and adventure, this dog can be a bit aggressive towards other small animals and strange dogs. It definitely maintains that old rough-edged terrier spirit.