

INTESTINAL LYMPHANGIECTASIA

"This article is intended to give you some information to help identify this disease. I have experienced the effects of this disease on one of my Yorkies."

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This often misdiagnosed disease is present in the Yorkshire Terrier. You say not another genetic problem, it may or may not be. There isn't enough research to assume this at the present time.

This article is intended to give you some information to help identify this disease. I have experienced the effects of this disease on one of my Yorkies. At the present time it has not been positively diagnosed. The only sure way of obtaining a positive diagnosis is to do an intestinal biopsy. This dog is eight years old and up until now was not in good enough shape to withstand the biopsy without endangering his life.

It was very hard to find out any information on this disease. Being a nurse I had access to the hospital library. This is where I was able to find out most of my information, in a text on rare diseases.

I was very lucky because my vet was aware of the symptoms because of treating another Yorkie with these same symptoms just a few months earlier. This particular dog is very short-backed and has always loved to eat. I have always had to watch his weight. I noticed one day he appeared to be putting on weight. Upon closer inspection, I realized that this was an edema. The next morning I took him in to

the vets, he was in very bad shape clinically by this time.

Labs were done and an X-ray taken. Results were as follows: low blood protein, albumin, and low white blood count. Right-sided heart enlargement, caused by the edema. All along he displayed no other change in his behavior or showed no signs of illness except the edema. Treatment was started at once. At this time we were under the assumption that he was suffering from this disease, because we could not do the biopsy. Time was of the utmost importance.

We started him on 2 mg of prednisone twice per day and a special diet that consisted of low fat cottage cheese, rice, green beans, carrots, and MCT syrup, which is a medium chain Triglycerides. It took several days for the edema to subside, there standing before my eyes was this little dog who was nothing but a rack of bones. He had lost all of his muscle mass. Before long he started to lose his hair. It has been ten months since we discovered this and he is doing very well. His weight is back to normals and his hair has grown back. His attitude has never changed through this whole ordeal. He has been off the prednisone for four months. At time I can see some bloating. He is on a special diet now, which Purina has just put,

out called CNK which can only be obtained through your veterinarian. We have also given him RD by Science Diet. His stools are well-formed - in fact, better than they have ever been.

I have spoken to a number of other breeders who have had dogs with these symptoms and they have been diagnosed with a variety of diseases. The most important part of this is a positive diagnosis, so treatment can be started at once. We to know how prevalent this disease is in our breed, and how it is passed, or if it is secondary to some other condition.

I spoke to Dr. Larry Snyder this past fall about the condition and gave him all the information I have accumulated on the subject in hopes we will be able to find out more about the disease. I am sure we will be hearing more about this in the future. Please feel free to contact me at 7218 Lakeshore Road, Birchville, Michigan 48059, (810) 385-4359 if anyone wants more information and I can help in the future.

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