



Animal Health Trust

# Dogs owners warned to stay alert for signs of mystery dog illness



In recent years, during autumn, several dogs walked in woodlands suddenly became ill. In some cases, dogs did not recover. Cases of this illness, named seasonal canine illness (SCI), are usually seen from August to November. The AHT is investigating the illness and advises vigilance during this time. Please seek immediate advice from your vet if you are concerned about your dog.

## SCI - WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

If you have walked in woodland and notice the following signs in your dog/s within 72 hours, please contact a vet immediately:

**Vomiting**  **Diarrhoea**  **Lethargy**

Clinical signs come on incredibly quickly, within a few hours of access to woodland.

**Dogs could be at risk of SCI walking in any woodland area during autumn, so please stay vigilant.**

## CAUSE OF SCI STILL UNKNOWN

The AHT is currently investigating possible links with Harvest mites or distance travelled.

There are **no known preventive measures**, but the following may help:

1. Ask your vet about topical spray treatments for mites to apply to your dog immediately before a walk. These may offer more protection against mites than spot-on treatments.
2. If you are taking your dog on holiday with you and/or travelling long journeys in the lead up to walking in woodland, ensure your dog has lots of breaks and access to fresh water before, during and after your journey.



Marcel Berendsen

**If you have walked your dog/s in any of these areas:**

**Sandringham Estate or Thetford Forest, Norfolk**  
**Clumber Park or Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire**  
**Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk**

**please complete our online questionnaire - regardless of whether your dog was taken ill or not.**



For the latest information, and to complete our online questionnaire, visit [www.aht.org.uk/sci](http://www.aht.org.uk/sci), email [sci@aht.org.uk](mailto:sci@aht.org.uk) or call **01638 555399**



The AHT's SCI investigation is kindly supported by The Kennel Club.

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