



Skiathos Dog Shelter | Skiathos 37002 | Greece
skiathosdogs.com

LIVING WITH LEISHMANIASIS – KEITH'S STORY

What is Leishmaniasis?

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by the parasite *Leishmania* which is transmitted to dogs by a sandfly. Some dogs have no symptoms for months or years. Symptoms may include depression, lack of appetite, weight loss, excessive drinking and sometimes, skin lesions. Leishmaniasis is not a death sentence and is treatable.

Here's Keith's story:

We had our first hound, Irwyn, in 2007. After a few months he developed skin problems, bald patches and red dots under his fur. He was prescribed Alupurinol daily which was the treatment back then; now doses are dependent on test result. He also had Glucantime injections for a month which had to be imported from Spain but today you can get it on the internet, but the treatment can affect the kidneys so he needed weekly tests to monitor that. Irwyn lived another five years and had a normal life.

Our second hound, Nana, became lethargic and off her food. She tested positive after five years. It affected her kidneys, so we treated her with Alupurinol and Milteforan in a tuna and Flora Proactive food bomb. She improved but relapsed a year later; we tried Glucantime but it failed.

With our third hound Rocky, it was different. He had small ulcers around his eyes which resulted in him going blind in one eye. He had been with us for seven years and I was horrified when he tested positive. His treatment was Milteforan food bombs. He was also on Alupurinol for 18 months and still enjoys life to the full.

Sybil had been with us 10 years before she started to go off her food. She also tested positive and was put on Alupurinol after Milteforan which made her sick. She lived another 15 months so had a long life.

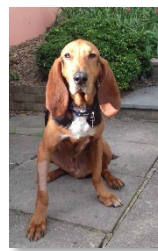
For further information, I recommend the Facebook group Living With Leish. The blood tests you should ask for that can assist diagnosis are Haematology, Biochemistry, SDMA, Leish Serology and Electrophoresis, all of which when read together can determine if the disease is active. Bear in mind that a dog can have the disease but it not be active, in which case treatment could have a negative effect.



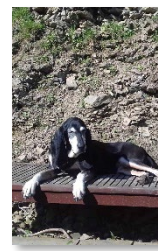
Irwyn



Nana



Rocky



Sybil