



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

3 August 2022

Dear colleagues

I am writing to provide an update on *Ehrlichia canis* (*E. canis*) in Western Australia.

***E. canis* movement conditions**

In May 2020, following the first detection of *E. canis* in WA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), as part of the response, set conditions on dog movements out of the Kimberley as a control measure while surveillance was undertaken nationally and in WA to determine the extent of the disease.

As you are aware, surveillance has now shown the disease is established in the Kimberley, Pilbara, northern Goldfields and Gascoyne regions of northern WA (see map) and the Northern Territory, and detections have been confirmed in South Australia and Queensland.

Nationally it has been agreed that *E. canis* cannot be eradicated and WA has modified how it regulates *E. canis* in WA and removed movement controls for dogs being moved into or within WA.

However, DPIRD recommends, as with any established disease, that precautions continue to be taken to reduce the risk of further spread. Hence, before moving dogs out of the *E. canis* active area, it is recommended that dogs:

- are not showing any signs of *E. canis*
- are treated with a registered tick product effective in the prevention of the brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*), even if ticks are not seen
- are checked regularly for attached ticks and coats kept short to make it easier to see ticks
- have their bedding and yards regularly treated for ticks
- are taken to a veterinarian if after movement they show signs of ehrlichiosis.

***E. canis* is nationally notifiable**

E. canis remains a nationally notifiable disease and it is important that suspicion of the disease continues to be investigated and reported to DPIRD.

Awareness program

DPIRD, in collaboration with a nationally coordinated awareness program, will continue to communicate with stakeholders, particularly veterinarians, rehoming organisations, local government, pet merchandisers and dog owners about *E. canis*, its causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

More information

Further information is available on the DPIRD [E. canis \(ehrlichiosis\) webpage](#) or by emailing animalbiosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Kind regards

Michelle Rodan | WA Chief Veterinary Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Map of *E. canis* areas in WA



Legend:

-  **Red outlined area:**
E. canis is known to be active in northern WA
-  **Orange shaded area:**
E. canis is not known to be active
-  **Shire boundary**