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## ***Barbesia infection protocol.***

### **{Suggested Atovaquone + Azithromycin}**

Babesia is a blood parasite that attacks the red blood cells;  
Attack results in hemolytic anemia.

It has been said that Babesia is so prevalent in our breed that it is very likely that nearly every kennel has at least one Babesia-positive dog. Many dogs that have Babesia will show no clinical signs of the disease which makes eradicating it nearly impossible.

The American Pit Bull Terrier is one of the most commonly affected breeds so we all need to be;

Aware of the symptoms and >

How to treat them in a moment's notice >

Babesia kills thousands of dogs every year.

If your dog displays any of the following clinical signs, suspect Babesia;

Pale gums

Lack of appetite

Lethargy

Jaundiced

Dark urine.

Any dogs displaying these signs should immediately be brought to the vet, time is of the essence.

Once these signs are visible the dog is in bad shape and could possibly need a blood transfusion to buy them time.

Be aware that most vets are probably going to misdiagnose your dog with Autoimmune Disease.

You must be prepared for this.

You should demand a blood sample test for Babesia.

You want a "PCR Test" done - Polymerase Chain Reaction blood test.

It is imperative that these samples be drawn and sent before the vet prescribes any medication as this can skew the testing resulting in false negatives.

You will also want a Canine Serology test ran.

This information is critical in properly treating the disease.

The test results will take anywhere from 5- 10 days to come back.

In the meantime, your vet will probably prescribe a broad spectrum antibiotic such as Doxycycline and they almost always prescribe prednisone.

Giving the Doxycycline is good, but prednisone is an immune suppressant that can drastically affect the dog's ability to recover ...

This is if the dog does in fact have Babesia.

**Note!** >> Stay away from the Prednisone until the test results come back.

If you are in dire straits, an injection of Diminazine Aceturate (Brand Name: Berenil) can be given at a dosage of ... 3.5–7 mg/kg IM every 1–2 weeks (not FDA approved).

This drug can be purchased online from pharmacies in South Africa without a prescription, and if you keep Berenil on hand your vet can administer it.

If you do not have access to Berenil you could give Imidocarb Dipropionate (Brand Name: Imizol) instead.

This is dosed at 6.6 mg/kg IM every 1–2 weeks (FDA approved).

These drugs will not cure the disease but they will buy you time.

You will notice improvement within 24 hours and within a few days you will think your dog is cured –

**Note!** >> If it is Babesia ... don't be fooled.

It is only a matter of time before the dog relapses. I

f your bloodwork comes back positive your next step is to get your dog on the following medication:

Azithromycin dosed at 10 mg/kg by mouth once a day for 10 days.

Your dog will also need Atovaquone (Brand Name: Mepron), dosed at 13.3 mg/kg by mouth with a fatty meal every 8 hours for 10 days.

It is critical that the Mepron be given with a fatty meal and like clockwork every 8 hours to ensure efficacy.

Repeat PCR Tests - Polymerase Chain Reaction blood test - should be performed 30, 60 and 90 days post treatment to ensure the Babesia was eliminated.

***Now here is the cool part.***

In the past, it's been very expensive to treat a Babesia-positive dog.

Let's face it; money is a concern for most of us.

Our dogs usually find a way to get sick at the worst time and most of us do not have an extra R5000.00 lying around.

Many dogs have died because they never received the treatment they needed.

You can now treat most dogs for under R500.00 by getting a little creative.

Note! >> Instead of ordering Mepron from a normal pharmacy, you can obtain Atovaquone from a compounding pharmacy.

A compounding pharmacy is basically a pharmacy that buys large quantities of drugs in bulk, and then dispenses them in smaller dosages. Their economies of scale gives compounding pharmacies the ability to sell the drugs less expensively.

A recent study\* published in 2014 determined that the use of compounded Atovaquone capsules were as effective ... as and less expensive than the commercially available version.

So there you have it.

As responsible dog owners we need to be aware and prepared to handle anything that can possibly pose a threat to our dogs.

Babesia is here and here to stay.

**Note!** >> If we don't treat this disease seriously it can wipe out entire kennels and bloodlines.

Knowledge is power.

Together we can make a difference, so please share this document.

Save it somewhere safe so if you ever need it, you have it.

Best of luck