

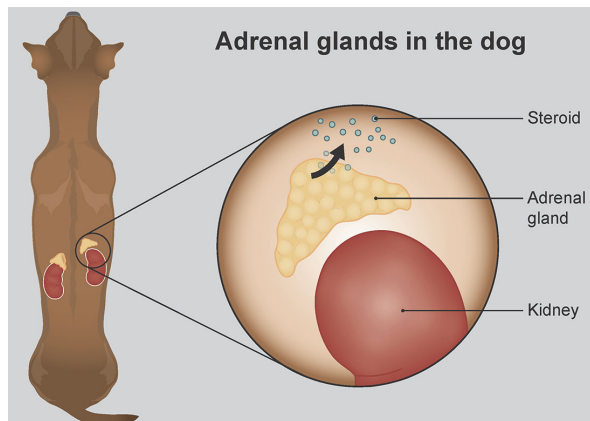
Addison's Disease

What is Addison's Disease?

Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism) is a condition that develops when the adrenal glands stop producing two steroid hormones called cortisol and aldosterone. These are essential for life and without them the body starts to fail.

In most cases, Addison's is caused when the body's own immune system mistakenly attacks the adrenal glands, which prevents them from working properly.

Although Addison's can affect any dog, it's most common in middle aged (4-6 year old) females.



What are some of the symptoms of Addison's Disease?

In the beginning Addison's can cause vague symptoms that may come and go:

- Lethargy
- Weight loss
- Reduced appetite
- Vomiting +/- diarrhoea occasionally
- Drinking and urinating more than normal
- Weak and wobbly
- Just not being quite right

In some cases, Addison's can develop rapidly and cause a life threatening condition known as an 'Addisonian crisis'. Symptoms of an 'Addisonian crisis' include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Slow heart rate
- Collapse leading to coma

How can we diagnose Addison's?

If your pet experiences any of the above symptoms it is important to raise this with your vet. Your vet can then perform a full clinical exam, blood tests, urine tests and possibly an ultrasound scan to confirm the diagnosis of Addison's Disease.

How can we treat Addison's Disease?

Luckily Addison's disease is very treatable in dogs but this does mean life long medication for your pet, these include:

- Daily steroid tablets to give at home which replace their cortisol
- A monthly injection given by your vet to replace the aldosterone

Along with medication your pet will need regular blood samples to make sure the medication is controlling this disease properly.

To book in for your pet in for a health check or testing, please call us on 01423 228080 or visit www.clarohillvets.co.uk.