Trilotab®

The Essential Guide to

Treating Your Dog

for Cushing's Syndrome

Cushing's syndrome can be complex to understand and a diagnosis of the disease can be worrying for any dog owner. This guide will help you to understand what Cushing's syndrome is, how it is treated and why your vet has recommended Trilotab® as a form of treatment.



Shaping the future of animal health

Virbac

What is Cushing's Syndrome?



Cushing's syndrome, or hyperadrenocorticism, is a common yet serious condition that affects many dogs. We refer to Cushing's as a 'syndrome' as it presents many clinical signs and is a collection of diseases. It occurs when a dog's body produces an excess of the hormone cortisol, which plays a vital role in managing stress, metabolism, anti-inflammatory and immune function. While cortisol is necessary for your dog's health, too much of it can lead to significant problems.



Did you know:

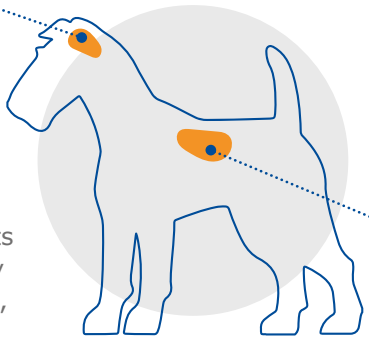
Cushing's syndrome affects approximately

1-2 dogs in every 1,000[1]

Types of Cushing's disease:

There are 2 main types of Cushing's disease found in dogs[2].







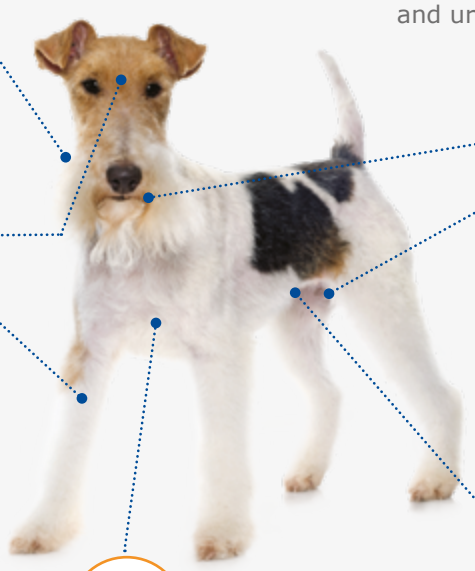
1 **Pitutary-Dependent Cushing's Disease (PDH)**

This is the most common form of Cushing's disease in dogs, and accounts for about 85% of cases. It is caused by a benign tumour on the pituitary gland, located at the base of the brain. The tumour triggers the overproduction of the hormone that stimulates the adrenal glands to release excessive amounts of cortisol.

2 **Adrenal-Dependent Cushing's Disease (ADH)**

In 15% of cases, the cause lies in the adrenal glands themselves. A tumour forms on one or both of these glands, leading to an overproduction of cortisol. These tumours may be benign or malignant. Typically, older female dogs are prone to this type of Cushing's disease.

Signs of Cushing's syndrome[3]:



Panting and Skin Infections:
Dogs with Cushing's syndrome may start panting excessively when there is no obvious reason i.e. they are too hot or after moderate exercise. They can also be prone to skin infections and urinary tract infections.

Increased Appetite:
This is common in dogs with Cushing's syndrome as their body is seeking more sources of energy.

Increased Thirst and Urination:
Dogs with Cushing's syndrome often drink excessive amounts of water with the need to urinate more frequently. You may notice them needing more trips outside, having accidents in the house, or needing to urinate during the night time.

Lethargy and Muscle Weakness:
Due to stress hormones, your dog can lose their muscle tone and can become lethargic (less active, reduced energy). You may notice this if they start to have difficulty climbing stairs or tire on a normal walk.

Hair Loss and Thinning Skin:
Hair loss especially around your dog's abdomen can occur along with thinning or fragile skin. Their coat may become dull and hair growth may slow down.

Pot-bellied Appearance:
There is a redistribution of fat due to the cortisol stress hormone and it is common for the liver to enlarge as a result of Cushing's giving a distinctive swelling of the abdomen.

Why do I need to treat my dog?

If Cushing's syndrome is left untreated, it can significantly reduce your dog's quality of life and can cause potentially life threatening conditions including[4]:

Cushing's syndrome

High Blood Pressure
which can affect several body systems including the kidneys and eyesight

Diabetes
a chronic disease that occurs when the body can't properly regulate blood sugar levels

Urinary Infections and Uroliths
also known as calculi or stones

Pulmonary Thromboembolism
A pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE) is a blood clot that blocks an artery in the lungs, cutting off blood flow to that part of the lung

Early diagnosis and treatment are key to managing Cushing's syndrome and improving treatment outcomes for your dog.

Certain dog breeds are more susceptible to Cushing's syndrome, such as:

- **Standard & Miniature Schnauzer**
- **Border Terrier**
- **Staffordshire Bull Terrier**
- **Bichon Frise**
- **Lhasa Apso**
- **Yorkshire Terrier**
- **Jack Russell Terrier**
- **Fox Terrier**
- **Boxer**
- **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel**[1,5]

There are also other risk factors to consider. **Cushing's syndrome is more commonly found in middle aged dogs, usually older than 7 years of age**, but it can be found in dogs of all ages. Bodyweight also needs to be monitored carefully as dogs with a bodyweight higher than their breed-sex average are **1.44 times more likely to develop the disease** than those within their breed-sex average[1].

How is Cushing's syndrome diagnosed?

Diagnosing Cushing's syndrome is not straightforward. There is no single, highly accurate test to diagnose it. Tests can also be over-used which can make results difficult to interpret. Signs of the disease are also similar to other common conditions such as diabetes or kidney disease making it harder to detect. Your vet will usually start with a physical examination, followed by blood and urine tests to check for abnormalities like high liver enzyme levels or diluted urine. Following this there are two commonly known tests that can help to diagnose Cushing's syndrome.

ACTH Stimulation Test

This test will measure how well the adrenal glands respond to a hormone that normally triggers cortisol production.

Low-Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test (LDDST)

A small dose of dexamethasone (steroid) is given, and cortisol levels are measured over time to see how the body responds.

In order to detect if a tumour is present around your dog's adrenal glands, an ultrasound may also be advised by your vet.



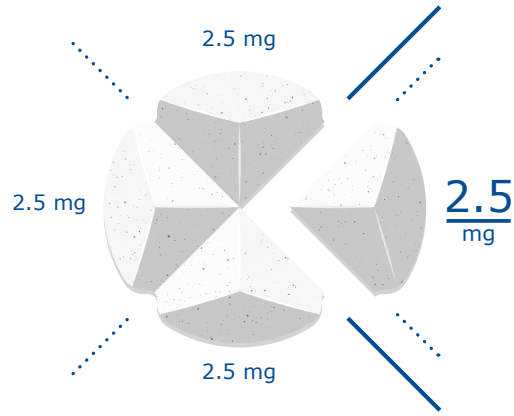
How is **Cushing's syndrome** treated and what is **Trilotab®**?

Vets are choosing to prescribe Trilotab® as it is the first chewable, flavoured and divisible tablet available to treat dogs for Cushing's syndrome, making treatment simple and stress-free for both you and your dog.

Trilotab®'s active ingredient is Trilostane which has a good safety profile and has been used in dogs with Cushing's syndrome for almost 20 years. Trilostane is also effective for both types of Cushing's disease - PDH & ADH[6].







Tablets are easily divisible by 2 and 4 with "click tab" technology

Easy to administer to your dog

Tablets are stable outside of the blister packaging until the next administration or up to 4 days

Trilotab® is flavoured with hydrolysed chicken – this means that it is suitable for dogs to take, even if they are allergic to chicken.

Trilotab®
The **flexibility** to be **precise**

Will my dog have to have lifelong treatment for Cushing's syndrome?



If your dog has been diagnosed with Cushing's by your vet, this means that your dog will require ongoing treatment for the rest of their life. Cushing's typically cannot be cured, so ongoing medication is necessary to control the condition and maintain your dog's quality of life. Your vet will monitor your dog closely and adjust the treatment as needed.

Early intervention and consistent treatment are the keys to managing Cushing's syndrome. If you notice any of the common signs, such as:

- **Increased thirst**
- **Frequent urination**
- **Changes in your dog's behaviour, such as increased appetite and tiredness**

Don't hesitate to consult your vet. With the right care, many dogs with Cushing's can live happy, comfortable lives.

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For more information on Cushing's syndrome, please speak to your vet.

References:

1. Schofield I, Brodbelt DC, Niessen SJM, Church DB, Geddes RF, O'Neill DG. Frequency and risk factors for naturally occurring Cushing's syndrome in dogs attending UK primary-care practices. J Small Anim Pract. 2022 Apr;63(4):265-274. doi: 10.1111/jsap.13450. Epub 2021 Dec 8. PMID: 34881823; PMCID: PMC9299886.
2. Sanders, K., Kooistra, H.S. and Galac, S. (2018) Treating Canine Cushing's Syndrome: Current Options and Future Prospects. The Veterinary Journal, 241, 42-51.
3. Schofield I, O'Neill DG, Brodbelt DC, Church DB, Geddes RF, Niessen SJM. Development and evaluation of a health-related quality-of-life tool for dogs with Cushing's syndrome. J Vet Intern Med. 2019 Nov;33(6):2595-2604. **4**. Schofield I, O'Neill DG, Brodbelt DC, et al. Development and evaluation of a health-related quality-of-life tool for dogs with Cushing's syndrome. J Vet Intern Med. 2019;33:2595-2604. **5**. Carotenuto G, Malerba E, Dolfi ni C, Brugnoli F, Giannuzzi P, Semprini G, Tosolini P, Fracassi F. Cushing's syndrome-an epidemiological study based on a canine population of 21,281 dogs. Open Vet J. 2019 Apr;9(1):27-32. **6**. Lemetayer J, Blois S. Update on the use of trilostane in dogs. Can Vet J. 2018 Apr;59(4):397-407.

Trilotab chewable tablets for dogs contain trilostane POM-V.

Advice on the use of this medicine should be sought from your veterinary surgeon.
For more information, please refer to the SPC, datasheet or package leaflet.

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