

Your Dog Has Tested Positive for Lyme Disease

What This Means and How We Treat It

Your dog has tested positive for **Lyme disease**, a serious bacterial infection transmitted by ticks. While Lyme disease is well known for causing joint pain and arthritis, it can also affect other vital organs, including the **kidneys** and **lungs**.

Why Treatment is Important

Left untreated, Lyme disease can lead to: **Joint pain and swelling** – causing stiffness, lameness, and long-term arthritis. **Cartilage damage** – including ulcerative, erosive changes inside the joints. **Kidney problems** – Lyme nephritis can be life-threatening. **Lung involvement** – inflammation can impair breathing and overall health. Early treatment helps reduce the severity of symptoms and the risk of permanent organ damage.

Our Recommended Treatment Plan

1. Antibiotic Therapy – Doxycycline

- **Dose:** Given daily for **30 days** to target the bacteria.
- May also help reduce inflammation and secondary infections.

2. Vaccination – Lyme Disease Vaccine

- **Initial Series:** Two injections, 2–4 weeks apart.
- **Annual Booster:** Once a year thereafter.
- Helps protect against re-infection and may reduce symptom severity if exposed again.

3. Tick Prevention

- Keep your dog on **year-round tick prevention** to reduce the risk of re-infection and other tick-borne diseases.

Home Care & Monitoring

- Watch for **changes in mobility, appetite, urination, or breathing**.
- Contact us if your dog shows **increased stiffness, lethargy, vomiting, or weight loss**.
- Continue all medications as prescribed — **do not stop antibiotics early**.
- Return for follow-up exams and lab work to monitor organ health.

■ Clyde's Animal Clinic

217-234-2287

■ Animal Family Vet Care Center

217-463-3647