

Babesiosis in dogs in the UK - due to the EU?

It used to be compulsory for imported dogs to be treated for ticks before entering the UK and Ireland. This requirement was dropped in 2012 to comply with EU regulations.

Swainsbury, the Harlow vet who first identified the disease in the UK, told the Vet Record: "There has been a marked increase in the number of dogs being rescued from abroad into the area but we are at a loss to know why the requirement to treat dogs for ticks upon entry to the UK was relaxed." Sean Wensley, president of the British Veterinary Association, said: "The BVA lobbied hard against the relaxing of controls under the EU Pet Travel Scheme, which included removing the requirement for tick treatment to prevent diseases such as babesiosis being introduced into the country, and it is disappointing to see our concerns potentially becoming a reality."

The Guardian (16th March 2016) - What is babesiosis and what can be done to stop its spread?

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