

Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome

What is Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome?

Dalmatian breeders often refer to this syndrome as “Dal Crud.” The bronzed Dalmatian typically appears to have a broad stripe of pinkish-bronzed coat with patchy hair loss along the topline often including the head. There is inflammation of the hair follicles, and close examination of the hair shafts reveals staining from the skin to extend to varying levels of the hair shafts. Early reports attempted to link this staining to other Dalmatian health problems including increase urate in the urine, dietary allergies, protein intolerance, Demodex skin mites (mange), and Sarcoptes skin mites (mange), and to call the collection of disorders the "Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome". Excessive uric acid excretion is associated with the tendency to develop urate stones in the urinary tract. Not all Dalmatians are affected with bronzing syndrome even though all have excessive uric acid excretion.

How is Dalmatian bronzing syndrome inherited?

Unkown. Urate urolithiasis is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait.

What does Dalmatian bronzing syndrome mean to your dog & you?

As mentioned, affected dogs have a patchy hair coat and a bronze hue to the skin. Hair follicles are inflamed and readily become infected.

How is Dalmatian bronzing syndrome diagnosed?

Diagnosis is based on clinical signs and the results of a skin biopsy. This is a simple procedure done with local anesthetic, in which your veterinarian removes a small sample of your dog's skin for examination by a veterinary pathologist. Your veterinarian may also measure your dog's blood uric acid levels.

How is Dalmatian bronzing syndrome treated?

The periodic skin infections in these dogs are treated with antibiotics and antiseptic shampoos. Your veterinarian may also suggest dietary modification and medication to reduce uric acid levels. The therapeutic value of reducing purines (through dietary modification and a drug called allopurinol) as a treatment for this skin condition has not been fully explored.

Breeding advice

Affected dogs should not be used for breeding.

References

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4. Hughes Susanne A. The Dalmatian Club of America, Skin and Coat Disorders in Dalmatians. Study group on Skin & Allergic Disorders, Dalmatian Club of America.