

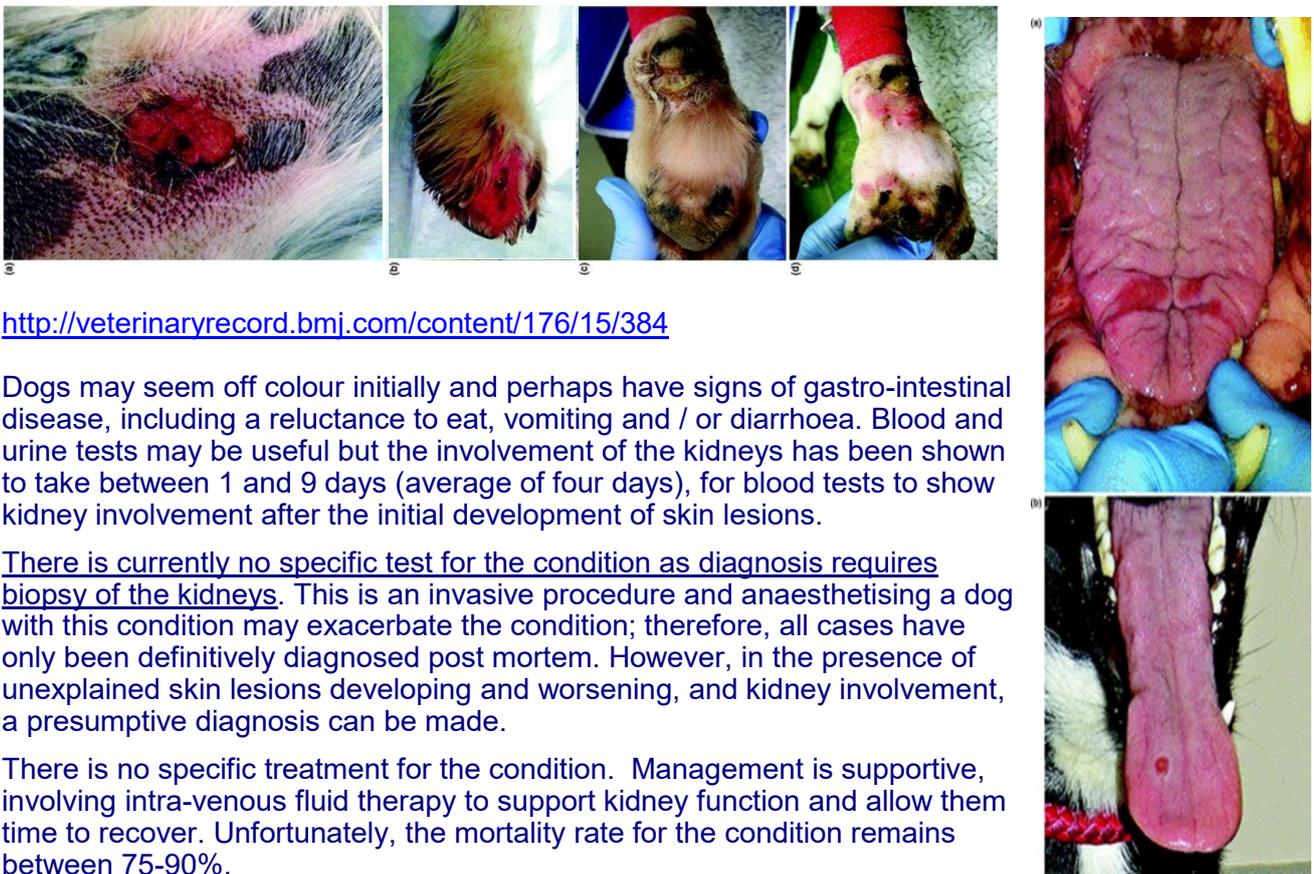
## Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy (Alabama Rot)

There have been approximately 150 confirmed cases of this disease in the UK since 2012 with 30 cases reported in 2018 to April. A significant proportion of the cases reported have been from the southern part of the UK. The disease appears to have a seasonal distribution with most cases described in the winter and spring.

The cause of this disease has not yet been established but it causes damage to blood vessels in the skin and kidneys. In the kidneys this causes a syndrome called Acute Kidney Injury (AKI).

The initial clinical sign observed is one of unexplained skin lesions, often of the lower limbs / feet, but these can also be found on the underneath of the chest/abdomen and on the muzzle/tongue.

**It is important to emphasise that the majority of skin lesions are caused by cuts or grazes.**



<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/176/15/384>

Dogs may seem off colour initially and perhaps have signs of gastro-intestinal disease, including a reluctance to eat, vomiting and / or diarrhoea. Blood and urine tests may be useful but the involvement of the kidneys has been shown to take between 1 and 9 days (average of four days), for blood tests to show kidney involvement after the initial development of skin lesions.

There is currently no specific test for the condition as diagnosis requires biopsy of the kidneys. This is an invasive procedure and anaesthetising a dog with this condition may exacerbate the condition; therefore, all cases have only been definitively diagnosed post mortem. However, in the presence of unexplained skin lesions developing and worsening, and kidney involvement, a presumptive diagnosis can be made.

There is no specific treatment for the condition. Management is supportive, involving intra-venous fluid therapy to support kidney function and allow them time to recover. Unfortunately, the mortality rate for the condition remains between 75-90%.

As the cause is not known, it is difficult to advise how best to protect dogs from this illness. Washing dogs' feet after walks and especially checking for unexplained lesions on the limbs should be performed but adjustments of lifestyle are otherwise currently considered unnecessary.

A recent (2015) peer reviewed article can be found here:  
<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/176/15/384>