

Hepatozoonose

Die **Hepatozoonose** ist eine durch parasitäre Einzeller der Gattung *Hepatozoon* hervorgerufene Krankheit bei Hunden. Sie verläuft unspezifisch mit Fieber, Gewichtsverlust und Schmerzen in der Lendenregion. Gelegentlich treten blutige Durchfälle auf. Eine vollständige Heilung ist nicht möglich, die Erkrankung ist mit Antiprotozoika jedoch unter Kontrolle zu bringen. Die wirksamste Vorbeugung ist der Schutz vor Zecken, über deren orale Aufnahme die Infektion erfolgt.

Erreger und Übertragung

In Europa, Afrika und Asien wird die Hepatozoonose vor allem durch *Hepatozoon canis* hervorgerufen. Der Erreger kommt in Südeuropa, Afrika und Asien vor, so dass die Hepatozoonose in Mitteleuropa vor allem eine „Reisekrankheit“ ist. In den Sommermonaten kann die Braune Hundezecke aber auch in Mitteleuropa vorkommen, in beheizten Räumen auch ganzjährig, so dass auch ein Infektionsrisiko auch hier besteht.

In Amerika wird die Hepatozoonose vorwiegend durch *Hepatozoon americanum* ausgelöst. Überträger ist die Golfküstenzecke (*Amblyomma maculatum*).

Der Erreger wird oral durch Fressen, Verschlucken oder Zerbeißen der Zecken übertragen. Empfänglich sind vor allem Hunde, jedoch auch Katzen. Hepatozoen befallen die weißen Blutkörperchen, insbesondere die eosinophilen Granulozyten und Monozyten, sowie Endothelzellen der Milz, Leber, Muskulatur, Lungen und des Knochenmarks. In Geweben verursacht die Infektion eine eitrig-granulomatöse Entzündung. Durch Bildung von Immunkomplexen kann eine Glomerulonephritis oder Amyloidose entstehen.

Bei Katzen wird der Erreger seltener nachgewiesen, verursacht als Ko-infektion ähnliche Krankheitserscheinungen wie beim Hund.

Klinisches Bild

Die Inkubationszeit beträgt zwei bis vier Wochen. Das klinische Bild ist unspezifisch. Zeichen der Allgemeininfektion sind Fieberschübe, Gewichtsabnahme und Lymphknotenschwellungen. Die Schleimhäute können aufgrund einer Anämie blass erscheinen.

Durch Eindringen der Sporoziten in die Darmschleimhaut kann es zu blutigen Durchfällen und Inappetenz kommen. Bei Schizontenbildung in der Muskulatur treten Überempfindlichkeit vor allem in der Lendenregion, Muskelentzündungen, steifer Gang und Muskelschwund auf. Bei jungen Hunden kommt es häufig zu einer Reaktion der Knochen mit Ausnahme des Schädels.

Diagnose

Die Diagnose ist klinisch nicht zu stellen, insbesondere Reisen in den Mittelmeerraum sind hier vorberichtlich zu erfragen.

Im Blutbild zeigt sich eine Neutrophilie mit Linksverschiebung. Die Zahl der roten Blutkörperchen nimmt ab (nomozytäre, normochrome Anämie). Die Aktivität der alkalischen Phosphatase ist erhöht.

Die Gamonten lassen sich im Blutaussstrich mittels Giemsa-Färbung nachweisen. Ein histologischer Nachweis der Schizonten kann anhand von Biopaten erfolgen. Der indirekte Nachweis über Antikörper mittels Immunhistochemie (IFAT) ist in Deutschland seit 2008 verfügbar.

Differentialdiagnostisch kommen vor allem Babesiose, Ehrlichiose, Leishmaniose und Immunkrankheiten in Betracht.

Behandlung

Eine vollständige Elimination des Erreger ist nicht möglich. Eine klinische Heilung kann mit einer Kombination aus Imidocarb und Doxycyclin oder mit Trimethoprim und Sulfonamiden erreicht werden. Gegen *Hepatozoon americanum* ist eine Kombination aus Trimethoprim, Sulfadiazin, Pyrimethamin und Clindamycin wirksam. Decoquinat vermindert die Gefahr von Rezidiven und erhöht die Überlebenszeit.

Eine Prophylaxe ist vor allem durch Verhinderung eines Zeckenbefalls möglich. Milbenabweisende und -abtötende Wirkungen haben Amitraz, Fipronil, Permethrin, Propoxur und Pyriprol, die bei Auftropfen auf die Haut (*pour on*) eine Schutzwirkung von etwa vier Wochen haben. Deltamethrin und Propoxur haben bei Anwendung in Form imprägnierter Halsbänder eine Schutzwirkung von etwa sechs, Dimpylat von vier Monaten.

Literatur

- Cornelia Heile und Eberhard Schein (Hrsg.): *Leitlinie Verhinderung der Erregerübertragung durch blutsaugende Vektoren bei Hunden*. BpT 2007
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