

## Juvenile Cellulitis

**Also Known As:** Puppy strangles, juvenile pyoderma

**Transmission or Cause:** The cause is unknown although there seems to be a problem in the immune system of affected animals. It is believed that there is also a genetic component as it can be passed on from the parents to their puppies.

**Affected Animals:** Puppies are most commonly affected; it is only very rarely seen in adult dogs.

**Clinical signs:** First signs are usually swelling of the face (eyelids, lips and muzzle), that progresses to pimples that can sometimes drain on the lips, muzzle, chin and around the eyes. The lymph nodes often become swollen, especially those behind the jaw. The lesions may be painful and some puppies are lethargic, have a fever and won't eat.

**Diagnosis:** Diagnosis is made by history and physical examination. Skin biopsies and culture may also be required for diagnosis.

**Prognosis:** With treatment prognosis is good. Depending on the severity of disease, affected dogs are sometimes left with permanent scarring. Recurrence is rare.

**Treatment:** High doses of oral steroids are typically given until skin lesions have resolved. The steroids are then slowly tapered to monitor for relapse. There are commonly secondary bacterial infections so antibiotics are also usually prescribed. Topical therapies such as warm water soaks can also be helpful.

**Prevention:** Neutering and spaying any dogs that have had the disease will help prevent the disease from being passed on.