



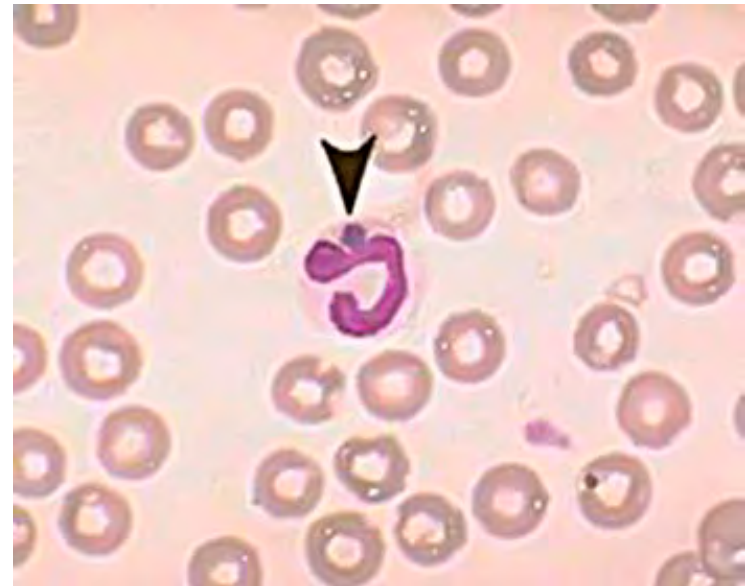
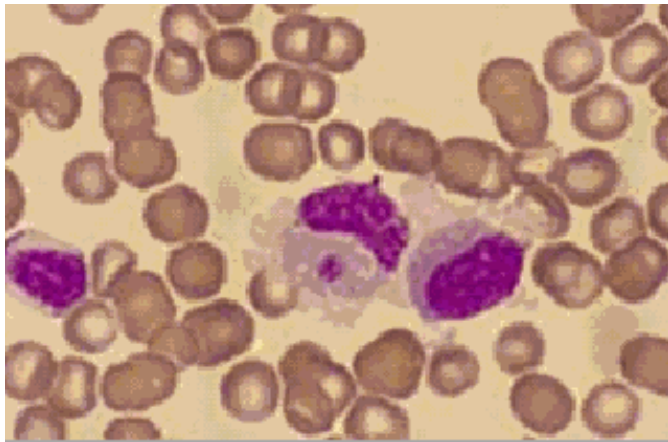
German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa

Ehrlichiosis in Dogs Frikkie van Kraayenburg

National Breed Committee Meeting
November 2012

Ehrlichiosis

- ▶ A canine disease caused by an infection with the Rickettsia *Ehrlichia canis* in the Monocytes and Neutrophils of the blood
- ▶ Carried from dog to dog by ticks and biting flies



What is a Rickettsia?



usually occurring in a colony

Origin & Distribution

- ▶ First identified in Vietnam in the 1970's
- ▶ In South Africa
 - Originally confined north of the Magaliesberg mountain range
 - Kwazulu-Natal
- ▶ **Must now be considered all over South Africa**



Symptoms

- ▶ Listlessness
- ▶ Cyclic behaviour
- ▶ Bruising
- ▶ Haemorrhaging
 - Excessive bleeding during whelping
 - Nose bleeds
- ▶ Fading puppies?
- ▶ Temperature 39.5°C to 39.9°C
- ▶ Infertility in males



Routes of Infection

- ▶ Ticks



- ▶ Biting flies

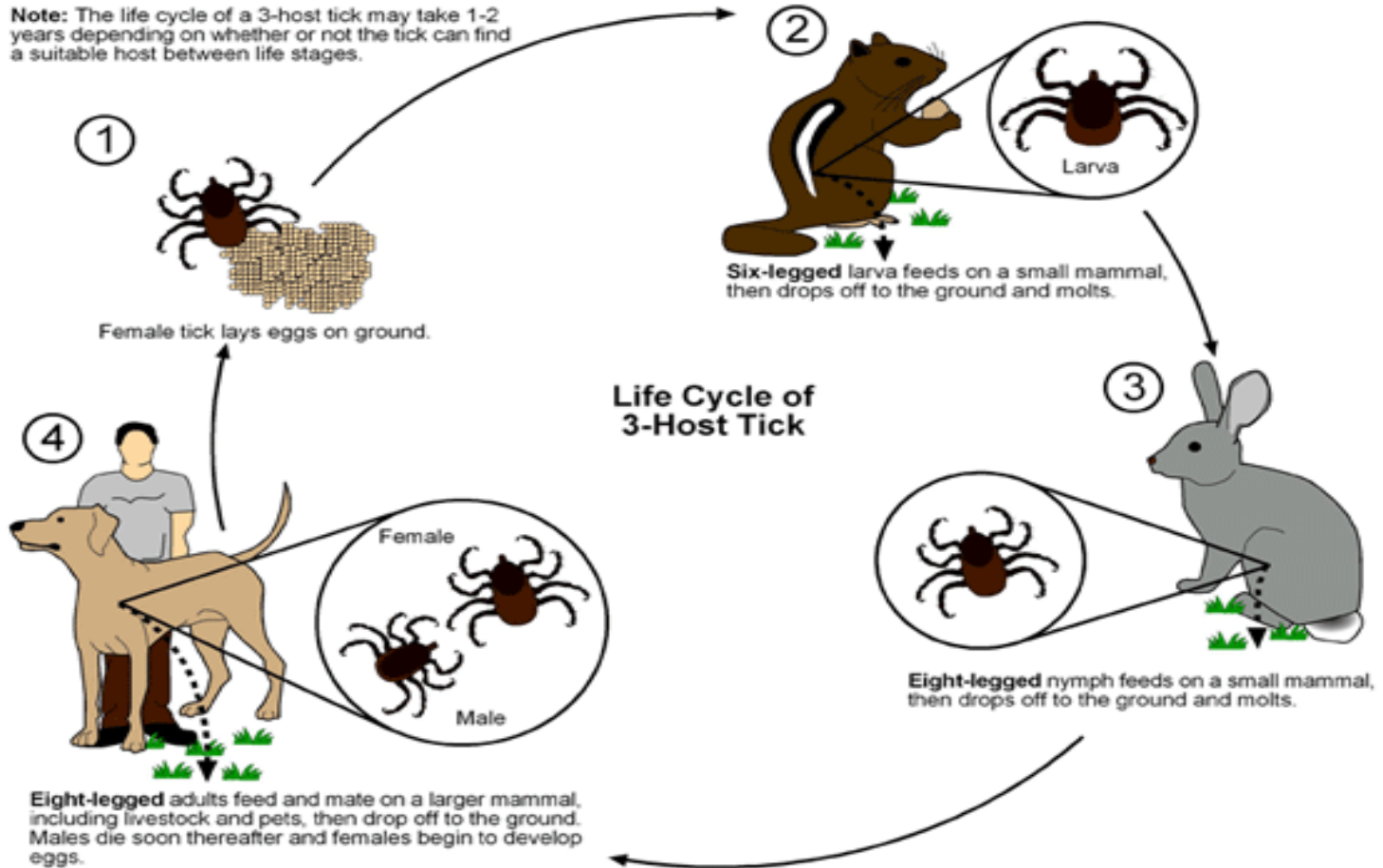


- ▶ Placental transfer



Routes of Infection

Note: The life cycle of a 3-host tick may take 1-2 years depending on whether or not the tick can find a suitable host between life stages.



Routes of Infection



Infection by Biting Flies

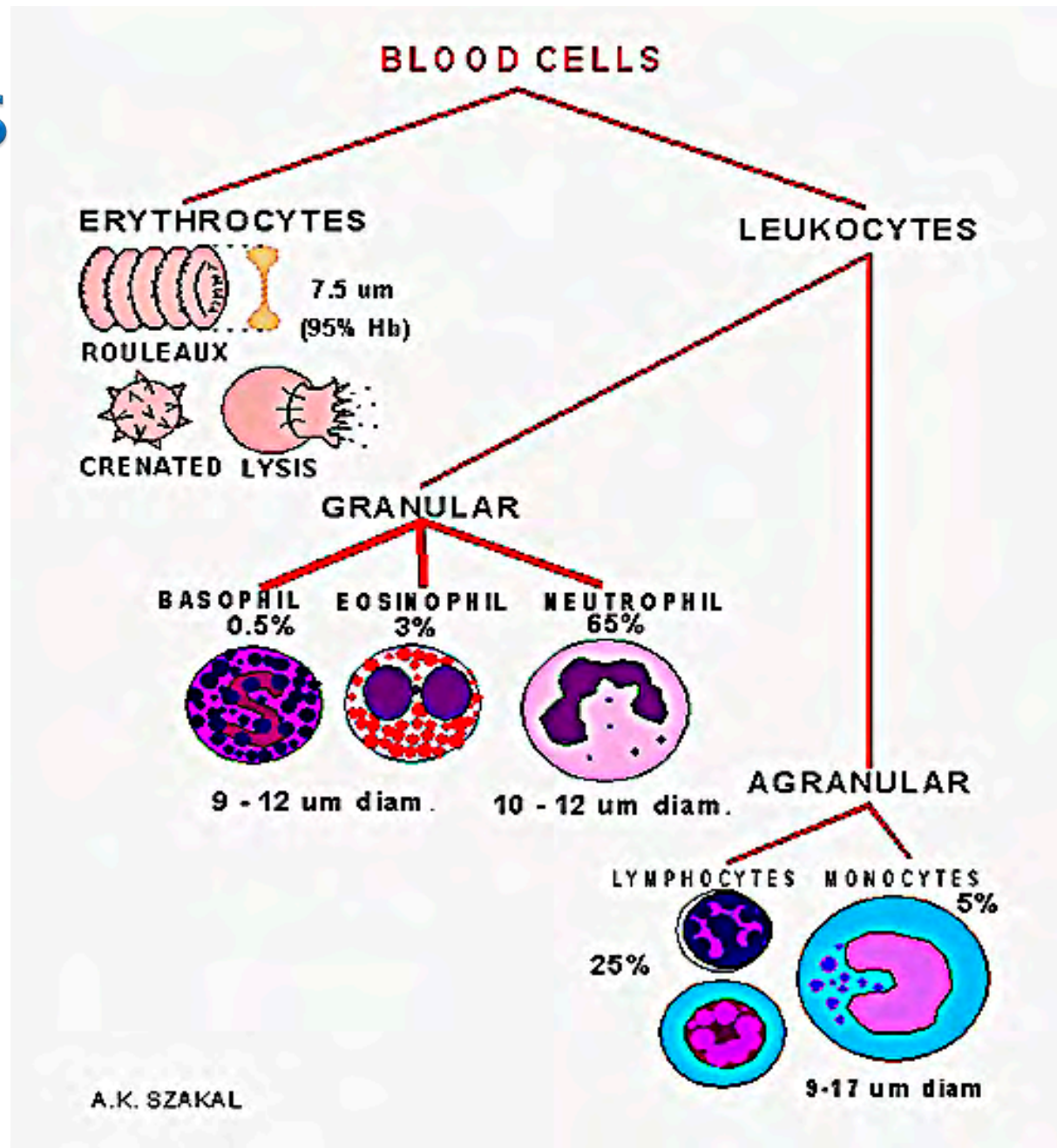
Blood Cells

Neutrophils (65%)

- Fights infection
- High count is desirable

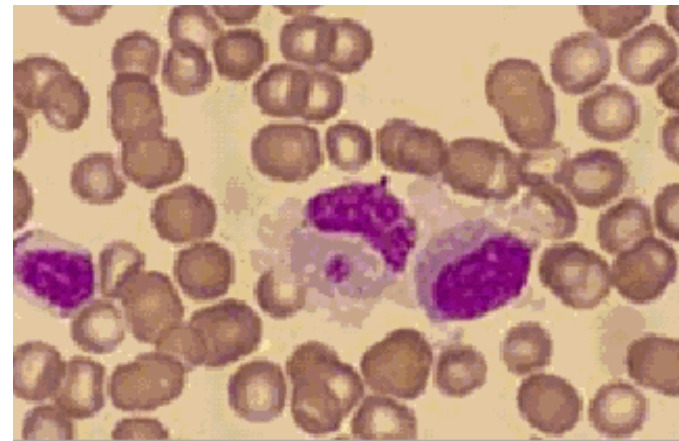
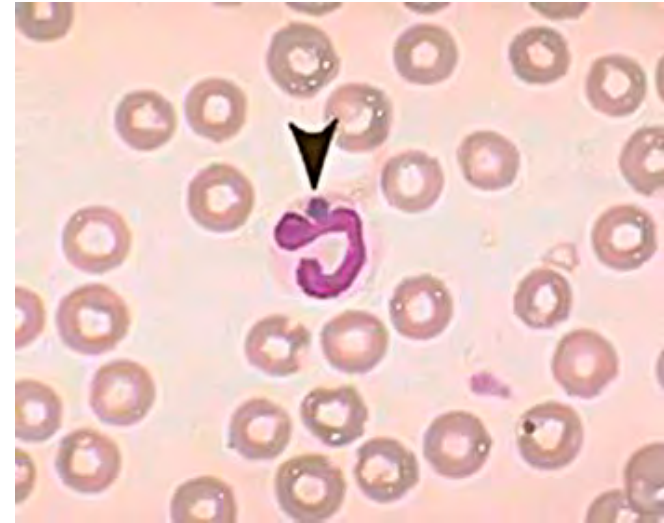
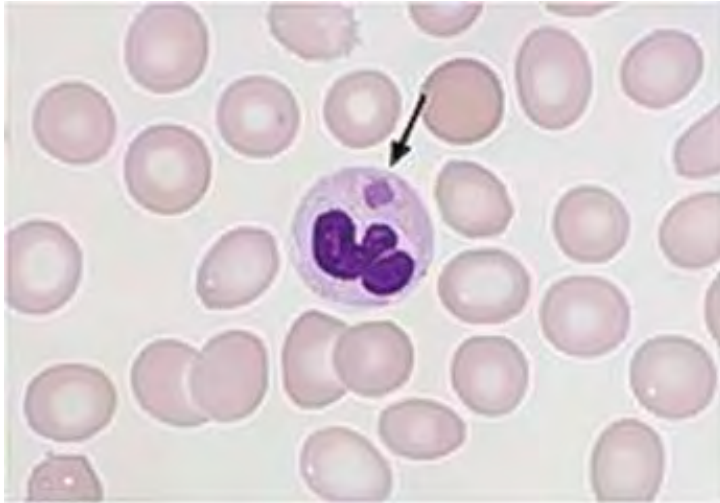
Monocytes (3–5%)

- A number of immune functions
- Low is desirable



Diagnosis

- ▶ Microscope



Treatment

- ▶ Intravenous injection of Mildox100 (1 ml/10kg) X Once
- ▶ Doxycycline pills/capsules for 30 days (10mg/Kg), some dogs even longer if relapses occur
- ▶ Treating a bitch from two weeks before whelping will also treat the puppies

