

Dog Health – a Land Management Response

Bridgette Hall
Head of Recreation
Forestry Commission England



- Our first response should always be to recommend that the dog is taken to a qualified local vet for examination and treatment if necessary.
- We are not experts in this area and dog owners should always be pointed to professionals e.g. vets for advice.
- They should give them as much information about all of their dog's recent activities.
- Putting up signs only **where vets have confirmed a cluster of known SCI cases or that a dog caught 'Alabama Rot' from a specific FC woodland.**

What not to do:

- Do not feel pressured into signing specific woodlands to warn the public.
- Do not rush in to signs that will require inspection, replacement and regular updating.
- **Remember, by putting signs up we could create the perception that a woodland is "unsafe" OR that un-signed woodlands are therefore "safe".**
- Do not respond to media calls/press requests to talk about this issue.