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Are recreational areas a risk factor for tick paralysis in urban environments?

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## Highlights

- Within the metropolitan area of Brisbane, Australia, 1,650 cases of tick paralysis in dogs were reported
- number of reported cases per postcode were strongly associated with areas of natural parklands per postcode
- case reports showed temporal and spatial clustering
- findings about the risk of tick paralysis within urban environments can be used by veterinarians and dog owners to reduce impact

## Abstract

In Australia, tick paralysis in dogs (caused by a toxin in the saliva of *Ixodes* species during feeding) is a serious, distressing condition, and untreated it is often fatal. The aim of this study was to quantify the association between parkland (recreational or natural) in an urban area and the occurrence of canine tick paralysis. Brisbane, as a large urban centre located within the zone of paralysis tick habitat along the east coast of Australia, was selected as the study area. Postcodes selected for inclusion were those defined as being of an urban

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