



Moonee Valley Animal Hospital

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GASTROENTERITIS – VOMITING / DIARRHOEA

SIGNS:

Vomiting and diarrhoea varies from very frequent & obvious, to undetectable, if your pet is shy or outside. Some animals have pain, but only show this by being “off colour”, lethargic, or not eating.

CAUSES:

This is not usually a single disease entity. There are many different causes, including viruses, dietary change or indiscretion (eating garbage!), bacterial or protozoal infection, toxins, foreign body (eg: a tennis ball or corncob or fruit pip), or another serious underlying disease.

DIAGNOSIS:

Each case is different. Often we may need to re-examine your pet to get to the bottom of the problem. Other tests or treatment changes may be required if there is no improvement.

TREATMENT:

Most treatment is symptomatic and supportive. The stomach / intestines must be rested to aid a speedy recovery in simple gastroenteritis. Do **not** be tempted to feed treats, even if your pet looks hungry, this will just start the problem up again. **Follow the outline given below:**

***Water or Electrolyte solution.** Drinking is important to keep your pet hydrated – some animals will need to come into hospital to go on IV fluids or a “drip”.

Drinking Fluids: Offer small amounts (eg ½ a cup) every hour or two. If there are no vomits, you can leave a small bowl down overnight. Leave out plain water too (as well as the electrolytes).

***No treats or rich foods, or human foods.** Offer water / electrolytes initially.

Monitor for vomits, diarrhoea, or depression (lethargy). If your dog is holding down liquids without vomiting, then you can introduce food.

***Introducing food. BLAND food – allow the intestines to recover while still supplying energy.**

Offer very small meals only. A teaspoon or tablespoon at first. We don't want to overdo it.

Give this small amount every couple of hours, throughout the day.

Offer: *ROYAL CANIN Gastro-Intestinal canned food or HILLS I/D, one spoonful.

-OR protein (boiled chicken, lean, no skin)

-OR carbohydrate (rice / boiled potato)

TODAY –

Water / electrolytes only. Then try a spoonful of the BLAND food.

TOMORROW -

Continue small meals of **BLAND** food (as above). Repeat if no vomits.

NEXT 5 DAYS-

Still feed the special **bland** food... **small** amounts 4 – 6 times daily.

Gradually add your normal (good quality) basic pet food (no treats) to it over another 5 days, until you are back to your pet's original diet.

IF VOMITING OR DIARRHOEA CONTINUES, OR IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PET, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US FOR ADVICE.