

# General Care for Diarrhea/ Bloody Stool

\*\*\*These are general guidelines for caring for your dog with diarrhea or bloody stool.

This is not a replacement for seeking consult from a veterinarian. We always recommend speaking to a veterinarian about treating your pet:

## Causes

There are many causes of diarrhea in dogs/cats including, but not limited to:

- Parvovirus
- Giardia and other parasites
- Stress Colitis
- Changes in diet
- Eating garbage, nonfood material or spoiled food.
- Other viral or bacterial infections
- Pancreatitis



## What to Do

**In most cases, diarrhea, without any other symptoms is not something to be highly concerned about.** Simply changing your dog/cat's food or stress can cause diarrhea. In these cases, it is important to provide your pet with ample access to water to prevent dehydration.

Just like when humans get an upset tummy, keeping food simple can help your pet feel better. You can boil white meat chicken and rice (NO SEASONINGS) and serve this to your pet instead of their normal dog food. If no chicken is available, you can mix some cooked eggs and

boiled rice as well. When cooking eggs you can boil them or make scrambled eggs, but always remember to avoid extra oils and to never use seasonings.

Bloody diarrhea, where the blood is mixed in with the poop can be due to irritated bowl or a fissure. If this bloody poop continues for more than a few days, please seek veterinary attention. If your pet has loose blood in their feces that is dark red and appears like droplets (not mixed in) this would be a cause for a concern and you should seek medical attention for your pet.

If you notice white spot that look like grains of rice, this is likely a sign of worms/parasites. You can get de-wormer medication for your pet over the counter at a pet store or from a veterinarian.

## When to be Cautious

The seriousness of diarrhea depends on how long the diarrhea has lasted and whether your pet is sick in other ways. If your dog has severe bloody diarrhea, or is showing more generalized signs of illness such as weakness, fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, or if they are also dehydrated, the cause may be more serious. For example, diarrhea is one of the first signs seen in parvovirus, a viral infection that can cause life-threatening illness in dogs.

**DIARRHEA PLUS THESE SIGNS  
MAY INDICATE A SERIOUS ISSUE**

*Diamond*  
**CARE**

- Vomiting or nausea (drooling, lip smacking)
- Fever
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy (tiredness) or weakness
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Substantial amount of blood

The infographic features a list of seven symptoms on the left and a line drawing of a dog on the right. The dog has a yellow sun-like symbol on its chest and yellow lightning bolt symbols on its back, indicating pain or illness.

It is important to monitor your pet for these other signs of illness. If a combination of these symptoms occur, it is important that you seek out veterinary attention for your pet, as time is important. If the diarrhea continues after a few days of this diet, contact a vet or the PACC Pet Support at 520-724-2222 for more suggestions.