



Gastrointestinal Disease



This Brochure
courtesy of

Hollyoak
Veterinary Surgery
IMPINGTON
01223 232111



What is gastrointestinal disease?

Gastrointestinal disease includes any disorder that impairs the digestion, absorption or movement of food through the stomach or intestines.

Efficient digestion and absorption are essential for your pet to be able to build and repair its tissues and to obtain vital energy. As food passes through the stomach and small intestine, digestive juices split the complex foodstuffs into substances small enough to pass through the intestinal wall – a process known as digestion. After these have been absorbed, what remains passes into the large intestine where residual water is removed and the rest expelled as faeces.

Factors that can influence the likelihood of a dog or cat developing gastrointestinal disease include:

AGE

Colitis is more prevalent in dogs under 5 years old, while constipation is more likely in older pets.

BREED

Certain breeds such as Great Danes, German Shepherd Dogs, Golden Retrievers and Collie breeds are more prone to particular gastrointestinal diseases.

BEHAVIOUR

Dogs allowed to scavenge are more at risk of digestive upsets from eating contaminated or decomposing food.

FOOD

Digestive upsets can be caused by poor quality food, food intolerance, foods high in fat, sudden dietary changes or excessive amounts of food.

Recognising the signs of gastrointestinal disease

If you notice any of these signs, consult your vet, because gastrointestinal problems are best treated early.

Signs of gastrointestinal disease:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Blood or mucus in the faeces
- Straining to defecate

Other less specific signs are:

- Loss of weight
- Abnormally large or small appetite
- Abdomen tense or painful to the touch
- Depression

IMPORTANT

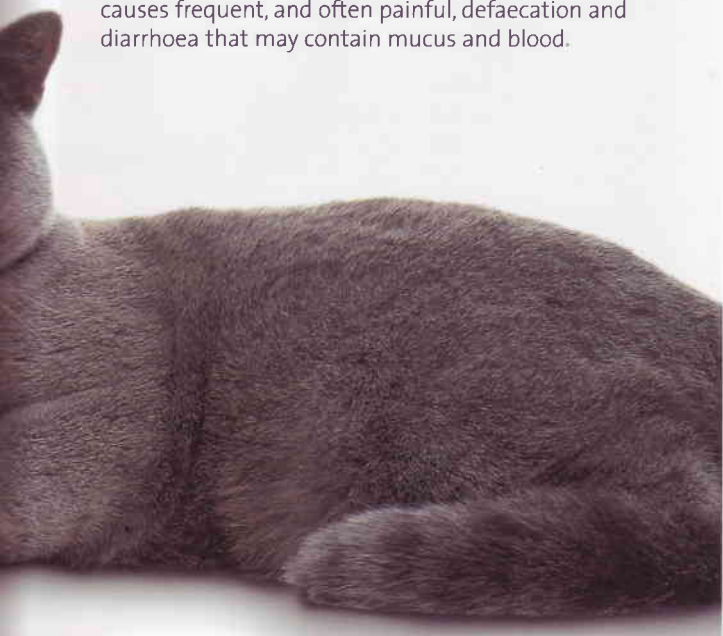
Dehydration is a serious consequence of severe diarrhoea and vomiting. Please seek advice from your vet immediately.



Diagnosis

In most cases, the physical signs may be enough for your vet to make a diagnosis. However, in some cases, blood and faeces may be tested and, if necessary, more advanced procedures such as radiography, endoscopy or exploratory surgery performed. If your vet suspects an adverse reaction to food, a feeding trial may be advised. Commonly diagnosed disorders include:

- **Acute gastroenteritis.** This generalised inflammation of the digestive tract is often caused by a pet consuming spoiled food or a toxic substance. It is characterised by the sudden onset of vomiting and diarrhoea.
- **Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency.** This condition results in impaired digestion and large amounts of soft faeces, together with an increased appetite and weight loss.
- **Small intestinal malabsorption.** This condition most often occurs when the small intestine is inflamed and so nutrient absorption is reduced. It causes persistent or recurrent diarrhoea, weight loss and often a loss of appetite.
- **Colitis.** This inflammation of the large intestine causes frequent, and often painful, defaecation and diarrhoea that may contain mucus and blood.



Management and control of pets with gastrointestinal disease

Hill's™ offer a range of products specially formulated for the nutritional management of pets with digestive tract diseases. They should only be fed to your pet under your vet's supervision.

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine i/d™ and Feline i/d™ are highly digestible, non-irritant, fat-restricted foods containing soluble fibre (Fibrim®) that are formulated to help avoid vomiting and diarrhoea.



Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine d/d™ and Feline d/d™ contain rice plus a single animal protein source to aid in the diagnosis and management of dietary allergies and other disorders.



Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine w/d™ and Feline w/d™ are foods with restricted fat and increased insoluble fibre to help regulate bowel movements and reduce straining.



Hill's™ Science Plan™ Range

Each product in the Hill's Science Plan range is formulated to reduce the risk of gastrointestinal upsets. Highly digestible ingredients are used in fixed formulas to avoid causing a digestive upset because of abrupt dietary change.



Owner's checklist

HollyOak
Veterinary Surgery
IMPINGTON 01223 232111
www.HollyOakVets.co.uk

- ✓ Watch out for early signs of illness and don't hesitate to call your vet

- ✓ Feed only the food recommended by your vet

- ✓ Don't give your pet any food scraps or left-overs

- ✓ Avoid your pet scavenging

- ✓ Avoid using any over the counter medicines such as laxatives or binding agents, which are generally unsuitable for pets

- ✓ Speak to your vet before changing your pet's food or medication

FEEDING GUIDE

All Hill's products are extremely palatable foods that are eagerly accepted by most pets. However, when suffering from gastrointestinal disease your pet may have a reduced appetite or be less willing to eat. If your pet does resist a change of food, the following tips may help:



- Introduce the new food gradually – mix it with your pet's usual food, adding more of it each day until you have completed the change-over
- Warm canned food to body temperature – but no hotter – before feeding
- If your pet refuses to eat for more than 48 hours, discuss the problem with your vet

Remember our food is 100% Guaranteed – we promise complete satisfaction or we buy it back.

Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd.,
Wingfield Court, Croxley Business Park, Hatters Lane,
WATFORD, WD18 8XL
Hill's Helpline: 0800 282438 –800-626002 (ROI) www.HillsPet.co.uk

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