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Sudden vomiting.

It is not uncommon for dogs to vomit from time to time. They might have eaten something that upset their stomachs, or just have sensitive digestive systems.

However, it becomes acute when the vomiting does not stop and when there is nothing left in the stomach to throw up except bile (a yellow fluid).

It is then important you take your dog to a veterinarian.

While vomiting may have a simple, straightforward cause, it may be an indicator of something far more serious.

It is also problematic because it can have a wide range of causes, and determining the correct one may be quite complicated.

Symptoms.

Vomiting that will not stop

Pain and distress

Weakness

Bright blood in the vomit or stool (hematemesis)

Evidence of dark blood in the vomit or stool (melena)

Causes.

Dietary indiscretion

Change in diet

Gobbling food/eating too fast

Intolerance to a particular food (i.e., be careful feeding your dog food intended for humans or other animals)

Allergic reaction to a particular food

Obstructing objects

Acute inflammation of stomach (gastroenteritis)

Parasites (e.g., whipworms, roundworms, giardia)

Dislocation of the stomach (prone in deep-chested dogs; very critical)

Tumours

Metabolic disorders (kidney disease)

Liver disease

Heat stroke Adrenal gland disease.

Diagnosis.

Bring a sample of the vomit to the veterinarian.

If there is a lot of mucus, an inflamed intestine may be the cause.

Undigested food in the vomit can be due to food poisoning, anxiety, or simply overeating.

Bile, on the other hand, indicates an inflammatory bowel disease or inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).

If bright red blood is found, the stomach could be ulcerated.

However, if the blood is brown and looks like coffee grounds, the problem may be in the intestine.

Finally, strong digestive odours are usually observed when there is an intestinal obstruction.

The veterinarian will generally look in your dog's mouth for foreign objects that may be wedged inside, such as a bone.

Enlarged tonsils are another good indicator for this.

The dog's temperature will be taken and an examination of the abdomen will be done.

If it turns out to be no more than a passing incident, the veterinarian may ask you to limit the diet to clear fluids and to collect stool samples over that period as the underlying cause may be passed along in the stool.

Occasionally, the animal's body may use vomiting to clear the intestines of toxins.