

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

Poop can foretell health problems.

Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

Occasional episodes of diarrhea are to be expected if you keep dogs. There are many potential causes of diarrhea in dogs, but the most common is dietary indiscretion

Diarrhea comes in many forms, and you can sometimes tell the cause by the appearance of the stool

Diarrhea symptoms include not only explosive loose, watery stools, but also hunching and straining that looks more like constipation than the opposite

Home care for a bout of diarrhea in an otherwise healthy dog can include a short-term fast, followed by a bland diet.

As dog owner I'm sure you're aware that occasional episodes of [diarrhea](#) simply go with the territory. It's never a matter of if your dog will have diarrhea — only when. In fact, anticipating the random loose stool and knowing how to manage the situation when it happens is just part of being a prepared dog owner!

Causes of Diarrhea.

Diarrhea in dogs can have many potential causes, from benign to very serious, including:

Indiscriminate eating	Irritable bowel syndrome	Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
Change in diet	Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Tumors
Food intolerance, sensitivity or allergy	Intestinal obstruction	Lymphangiectasia
Intestinal parasites (e.g., giardia)	Ingestion of toxins	Histiocytic ulcerative colitis
Bacterial infection	Rectal polyps	Idiopathic hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
Viral infection	Small intestine bacterial overgrowth (SIBO)	Histoplasma enteritis or colitis

By far, the most common cause of diarrhea in otherwise healthy dogs is indiscriminate eating (e.g., sticks, rocks, toys, socks, etc.)

Types of diarrhea.

In the following situations, unless the problem clears up on its own within a day or so, I recommend making an appointment with your veterinarian:

A soft stool with no visible blood or mucus might indicate either a dietary change or indiscriminate eating.

However, it can also signal the presence of an intestinal parasite such as giardia.

A greasy-looking gray stool can be a sign of too much fat in your dog's diet, which can trigger pancreatitis — inflammation of the pancreas that can range from very mild to life-threatening.

A black, tarry stool typically indicates the presence of old blood somewhere in the dog's digestive system.

It can be a sign of injury to the GI tract from indiscriminate eating, and it can also be a sign of a very serious disease such as **cancer**.

Watery diarrhea can be a sign of stress or a viral (e.g., parvovirus) or parasitic infection and can lead very quickly to dehydration, especially in puppies.

A soft stool containing or coated with mucus may indicate the presence of parvovirus or parasites.

A soft or watery stool with visible worms, eggs or other uninvited guests is a clear indication of a parasite infestation.

Firm, soft or runny poop containing blood or blood clots is almost always a sign of a serious health problem requiring immediate attention.

Fresh blood indicates current bleeding, typically from the large intestine or the anus or anal glands.

There could be a perforation of the intestinal wall from something the dog ingested, or from the eruption of a tumor or ulcer.

Common and not-so-common diarrhea symptoms.

Diarrhea symptoms can be quite varied.

Frequency, urgency and loose watery stools are the classic signs, but actually, so is straining.

Many dog owners mistake constipation for diarrhea because they see the dog hunched up outside and nothing much seems to be happening. What looks like constipation in this case is really just another sign the dog is having a bout of diarrhea.

Diarrhea upsets the normal rhythmic contractions and sensations of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, causing your dog to feel the constant need to eliminate.

So, if you see your dog hunched up outside, check around for loose, brown or watery stools.

If you find any, the dog's more likely to have diarrhea than constipation.

Other symptoms that can go along with diarrhea include;

Lethargy

Loss of appetite

Fever and [dehydration](#).

Typically, young, healthy dogs have a single episode of loose stool or diarrhea, and it's done.

However, if your dog is having chronic bouts of diarrhea, the runs the risk of becoming debilitated and ill.

Puppies, small breeds and older dogs are at high risk of becoming dehydrated from even a single episode of diarrhea.

If your dog seems fine and healthy after a bout of diarrhea, it's safe to simply keep a careful eye on the dog.

But if you notice any lethargy, a fever, or a change in behavior, you should call your veterinarian.

If your dog seems fine otherwise but is having recurring episodes of diarrhea that don't seem to be resolving, or episodes that last more than three days, it's also time to call the vet for an appointment.

And needless to say, if the dog's passing [blood in her stool](#) or you notice any weakness or other signs of debilitation along with diarrhea, **it's important to get the dog to the vet immediately.**

Treating diarrhea at home.

If your dog is otherwise healthy and his behavior is normal, it is recommendation is to withhold food — not water, just food — for 12 hours.

A short-term fast gives the GI tract a chance to rest, repair and restore itself. Bland diet.

It is recommend cooked, fat-free, ground chicken or turkey and cooked and mashed pumpkin and or sweat potato.

You can use fresh, steamed sweat patio and or pumpkin.

Many veterinarians still recommend a bland diet of ground beef and rice.

I don't agree.

Even the leanest ground beef is high in fat, which can worsen GI upset, and boiling it doesn't substantially decrease the fat content.

That's why it's recommend fat-free meat for bland diets.

Rice is a very starchy carbohydrate that tends to ferment in the GI tract and also provides a food source for opportunistic bacteria.

Rice also often zips right through the digestive system and exits your dog's body looking just like it did going in.

This tells you it hasn't provided much in the way of calories or nutrition.

Know this! >> Pumpkin and or sweat potato provides about 80 calories and 7 grams of soluble fiber per cup, compared to 1.2 grams of fiber in a cup of cooked white rice.

The soluble fiber in sweet potato and or pumpkin coats and soothes the GI tract; it also delays gastric emptying, slowing down GI transit times and helping to reverse the effects of increased peristalsis (muscle contractions).

When dogs or puppies have diarrhea, they can lose important electrolytes, including potassium, which puts them at risk of dehydration.

Hypokalemia, or low potassium levels, can result in cramping, fatigue, weakness and heart rate irregularities.

Pumpkin and or sweet potato happens to be an excellent source of potassium, with 505 milligrams of naturally occurring potassium per cup.

Pumpkin and sweet potato is also safer for diabetic dog than rice. And most dogs love it.

Since dogs don't have a nutritional requirement for grain, feeding a pro-inflammatory food like rice when they're already having GI upset is counter-intuitive.

There's also the issue of arsenic in rice.

Mix the chicken or turkey and sweet potato and or pumpkin, 50/50, and feed it to your dog until the diarrhea resolves.

If it doesn't clear up in about three days on a bland diet, it's time to call your veterinarian.

Additional treatment suggestions.

It is also recommend keeping some slippery elm on hand.

Slippery elm is a neutral fiber source that works really well to ease episodes of diarrhea.

It is a natural form of "Pepto-Bismol" because it reduces GI inflammation and acts as a non-irritating source of fiber to bulk up the stool and slow down GI transit time.

Give your dog about a half a teaspoon or a capsule for each 5 kg of body weight with every bland meal.

Probiotics.

It is also recommend adding in a [good-quality probiotic](#) once the stool starts to firm up.

Herbs.

In addition to slippery elm and probiotics, many dog owners have good luck with herbs such as peppermint, fennel or chamomile.

These are especially helpful for the cramping and other uncomfortable GI symptoms that come with diarrhea.

Homeopathic remedies.

There are several homeopathic remedies that can be very beneficial for intermittent diarrhea depending on your dog's specific symptoms, including nux vomica, veratrum, podophyllum, arsenicum album and china officinalis.