

Patient History Work Sheet- Gastrointestinal

Gastrointestinal problems are a common complaint in veterinary centers. To help localize your pet's problem, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

History

- How long has your pet been ill? _____
- Is your pet exclusively indoors, outdoors, or both? _____
- Does your pet have a chronic condition (arthritis, diabetes, etc)?

- Is your pet taking any drugs (heartworm preventative, dewormer, digoxin, NSAID, etc)?

- Has your pet lost weight? Yes No
- Does your pet have access to garbage? Yes No
- Does your pet have access to people food? Yes No
- Any change in water consumption? Yes No
- Any change in urination habits? Yes No
- Any access to household or garden chemicals? Yes No
- Any toys/nonfood items/small household objects missing? _____
- Any change in your household environment (eg, remodeling, new members, absent members, new pets)? _____

Signs- Vomiting or Regurgitation

- Is there abdominal effort or is it more of a passive act? _____
- How many times a day? _____
- What is the character of the vomitus (circle all applicable responses)?
 - Food in vomit
 - Food is digested
 - Food is undigested
 - Non-food items in vomit
 - Bright red blood
 - Coffee ground appearance



Signs- Diarrhea

- How many stools a day? _____
- What is the character of the stools (circle all applicable responses)?
 - Bright red blood in stool
 - Stools are black
 - Mucus in stool
 - Stools are cow-pie consistency
 - Stools are liquid consistency
- Is your pet straining to pass stool?
 Yes No

Dietary History

- What is your pet's current diet? _____
- How much is fed? _____
- How long has the food been fed? _____
- How frequently is the type of food changed? _____

Gastrointestinal disease can have many causes. For this reason diagnostic tests are generally needed to determine the exact cause of your pet's illness.

Depending on your pet's condition the following tests may be recommended:

- Urinalysis
- Fecal direct examination
- Fecal parasite examination
- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Serum chemistry profile
- T4 (assess thyroid function)
- Parvovirus test (dogs)
- FeLV, FIV (cats)
- Pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity
- Malabsorption profile (Trypsin-like immunoreactivity, vitamin B12, folate)
- Thoracic and abdominal radiography
- Ultrasonography,



Treating gastrointestinal disease is generally a multi-faceted approach. Several medications may be sent home with your pet depending on the underlying cause of his/her illness. A change in diet may also be recommended. In many instances a bland diet (such as Iams Low Residue or Hill's i/d) is suggested in order to aid in stomach and intestinal healing. It can take up to 3 weeks for stomach/intestinal lining to heal!



Our mission at South Des Moines Veterinary Center...
to heal, prevent disease, to educate, and to care.