



DIARRHEA

Diarrhea can occur in a variety of medical conditions. Some of these conditions may have specific treatments, tests can aid in determining the severity and cause of the problem.

How is Darrhea Treated?

DO NOT GIVE YOUR PET MILK! Many pets cannot digest the sugar in cow’s milk (lactose). It passes through their digestive tract, providing a medium in which bacteria will bloom. This can cause or exaggerate diarrhea. If there is only diarrhea and no vomiting, you do not need to withhold water or food.

Food Intake: You may offer a bland diet in small amounts. Don’t overburden the digestive tract with food that may pass through incompletely digested. Small meals three to six times daily is best for the next three days.

Here are some bland diets:

1. Royal Canine Intestinal HE (canned or dry)
2. Chicken and rice soup (give two ounces per ten pounds of body weight every 4 to 6 hours) (remove skin, bones and fat from the chicken)
3. A mixture of a carbohydrate and a protein:

Carbohydrates Proteins

- boiled white rice boiled drained lean hamburger
- boiled potatoes low fat cottage cheese
- boiled plain pasta boiled chicken (no bones or skin)

Mix one carbohydrate with one protein at a ratio of 3/4 carbohydrate and 1/4 protein. Feed approximately one cup of cooked carbohydrate and four ounces of protein per 20 pounds of body weight daily. After three days on a bland diet, if your pet is responding well, gradually switch your pet to its regular diet over the next three or four days by slowly adding more of the regular food to the bland diet each day.

Medicine: Use as directed and on the label. Unless otherwise directed, give it until it is used up. It is often advisable to give yogurt (or Acidophilus capsules) after using enteric antibiotics to “replant” the good bacteria. The amount of yogurt is not critical but a tablespoon twice daily is adequate for a cat and four ounces twice daily is fine for a large dog. Adjust for your pet’s weight accordingly.

Special instructions: _____

Call Us If...

- Diarrhea is not controlled within three days.
- Your pet refuses to eat the bland diet.
- You are unsure if the response you are seeing is as expected.
- You have trouble giving the medicine.
- Vomiting occurs.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!