



Wheat Ridge
Veterinary Specialists

Expertise You Can Trust.



emergency & critical care

internal medicine

surgery

dermatology

radiology, ultrasound & CT scan

Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis



Causes of bloody vomit and diarrhea:

- Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
- Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease)
- Parvoviral enteritis
- Intestinal foreign body/obstruction
- Salmonella and other bacteria
- Gastrointestinal parasites
- Pancreatitis
- Coagulation abnormalities



Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE) is a common cause of bloody vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. The exact cause of HGE is unknown, although bacteria such as *Clostridium perfringens* and immune reactions have been implicated to play a causative role in some cases. HGE can affect all dogs, but is more common in some small breeds such as miniature schnauzers, dachshunds, miniature poodles, and Yorkshire terriers.

Diagnosis of HGE is largely based on clinical signs of bloody vomiting and diarrhea, bloodwork that demonstrates hemoconcentration with elevated hematocrit, as well as normal to decreased plasma total protein concentration. Your experienced veterinarian will recommend bloodwork, x-rays of the abdomen, and fecal examination to rule out other causes of bloody vomit and diarrhea.

Many animals with HGE become severely dehydrated and develop low blood pressure. The gold standard of treatment is to administer intravenous fluids, antibiotics, and anti-nausea medications. Most dogs usually will require monitoring in the hospital for one to several days, until it is able to hold down food and water without vomiting. During hospitalization, it may become necessary to monitor coagulation tests and EKG if abnormalities develop. Some animals may require plasma or albumin transfusions to help replenish the protein that is lost in the diarrhea.

After your pet returns home, it will be necessary to administer antibiotics and a bland diet for several days to a week. You can purchase a bland diet from us, or can cook a bland diet for your pet. Feed the bland diet for 2 – 3 days, then gradually re-introduce their regular diet over a period of 24 – 48 hours. Watch your pet carefully for signs of vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, lethargy, or difficulty breathing. If your pet shows any of these abnormal signs, please contact Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital immediately.

How to Prepare a Bland Diet for Your Dog:

Boil hamburger or chicken in boiling water until cooked through. Place the meat in a strainer and rinse the excess fat away. Boil white or brown rice until thoroughly cooked. Mix 2/3 meat with 1/3 rice and feed an amount as directed by your veterinarian. You can add several tablespoons of low-fat cottage cheese to the mixture for taste.

OUR EMERGENCY SERVICE IS HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR PET,
24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists

2

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