

Puppy Diarrhea – A Veterinarian’s View

Puppies are more fragile than their adult counterparts, this means that when they have diarrhea they are more prone to dehydration and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Diarrhea in puppies can be due to a number of conditions and illnesses, some very serious, and it’s important to have your pup evaluated quickly by your vet.

If your puppy has diarrhea and isn’t eating well, is vomiting, lethargic or has blood in his stool it is an emergency situation, and your pup needs to be seen right away. Puppies can become severely dehydrated or have low blood sugar levels, which will require immediate medical intervention.

Veterinary Evaluation

Anytime your puppy, or dog, has diarrhea it’s important to bring a stool sample to your veterinarian. He/she will examine the sample microscopically to look for parasite eggs or protozoa.

Parasites are not always visible in the stool, so just because you can’t see them doesn’t mean they’re not there. Even if your veterinarian doesn’t see any eggs, worms or protozoa they may well prescribe a deworming medication because parasites only shed eggs and such into the stool intermittently.

Sick puppies should be evaluated for more serious diseases that cause diarrhea, including [Parvovirus](#). Parvo is very contagious between puppies. It will cause severe illness, even death, if not treated aggressively. Thankfully, the parvovirus vaccine is very effective. It is critically important to keep your puppy up to date on vaccinations to prevent this illness.

Other viral and bacterial diseases, obstruction or various organ abnormalities are other potential causes of diarrhea in puppies.

Additional tests which might be performed by your vet in order to make a diagnosis could include blood draws, organ function tests and x-rays (to rule out obstructions). IV fluids, antibiotics or other medications may be prescribed.

