

GASTROENTERITIS

Gastroenteritis is simply defined as an inflammation of the stomach and/or intestines. It has many causes that include bacteria, viral, irritating foods, poisons, “bones,” and internal organ malfunctions.

Regardless of the cause, treatment is basically the same. Some cases respond rapidly, while others may take weeks to recover. It is now known it is best **NOT** to use drugs which slow down the intestinal tract. It is best not to use such drugs as Kaopectate, but rather allow the body to more rapidly rid itself of the toxic substances which may accumulate in the intestine. **PREVENTING DEHYDRATION** is the most important aspect of treating both vomiting and diarrhea.

Allow NOTHING but clear liquids and prescribed medications for the next 24 hours..

Return to the clinic in 24 hours if vomiting continues. IV fluids are often necessary when vomiting and/or diarrhea continue for more than 24 hours. Failure to return can increase the chances of your pet becoming severely dehydrated. The normal body is 80%+ water. If a pet loses 15% of the fluid from the body, it will DIE! Fluids are necessary for life to continue.

Use all medications completely. Many problems will reoccur if medication is not used long enough.

Notify the clinic if your pet progressively worsens, weakens, continues to vomit, or refuses to eat.