

Uncomplicated Diarrhea:

Evacuation of watery stools without other symptoms. Dog is alert, active and has a good appetite. Temperature is normal.

Complicated Diarrhea*:

- Diarrhea that is accompanied by blood in the stool, lethargy, fever, vomiting, dehydration/refusal of water.
- Diarrhea that worsens rapidly over a twenty-four hour period.
- Diarrhea in that persists for more than three days despite management.
- Diarrhea in animals less than 12 weeks of age that persists with no improvement for more than twelve hours, as young, small animals are more subject to more rapid electrolyte imbalance and dehydration.

***Complicated diarrhea warrants promptly following protocol to alert the GEB Veterinary Team.**

Management of Uncomplicated Diarrhea:

- 1. Observe the next bowel movement.** If it is normal, there is no need for treatment.
- 2. Skip the next meal.** This allows the gastrointestinal tract to rest.
- 3. Administer frequent small amounts of water.** For puppies less than 12 weeks old, you may substitute Pedialyte, available at most drug and grocery stores, or resorb, which is an electrolyte solution that can be obtained through GEB.
- 4. Begin a bland diet*.** The first meal should consist of a bland diet amount equal to one third of the amount of what you normally feed and this should be increased gradually to the normal amount over the next three meals. If diarrhea recurs, skip a meal and begin again with the bland diet administration. Feed bland meals until the stools are firm for a minimum of four consecutive bowel movements. If there is no response to bland diet, refer to complicated diarrhea.
- 5. Gradually mix in normal dog food** over the course of the next 4-5 days following the normal bowel movements. Decrease the amount of dog food being added into the bland diet if the stools begin to soften again. Increase the amount of dog food as tolerated until the normal diet is re-established.

Please do not administer any over the counter drugs, including Pepto Bismol without contacting the veterinary staff.

***Bland diet:**

Prepared at Home: Boiled peeled potatoes or boiled white rice with boiled white meat chicken breasts or boiled hamburger meat. It is important that these items are drained of excess fat and are not seasoned.

Commercial: Examples are Purina EN, Eukanuba Low Residue, Science Diet i/d. These foods can be purchased through a veterinarian. Some hospitals require a prescription, which the Guiding Eyes Veterinarians can provide for you if warranted. Since many major pet stores have veterinary offices inside, they can often be ordered through these locations as well.