Pride Veterinary Centre
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Scarsdale Vets

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

The two most common signs associated with disturbances of the gastrointestinal tract are vomiting and diarrhoea.

Acute diseases (rapid onset, short duration) if managed correctly can reduce the risk of a more chronic (long duration) problem occurring.

Vomiting or diarrhoea can be caused by a variety of things, including infections (bacteria, viruses), eating spoiled food or rubbish, foreign bodies, poisoning, food allergies and some medications. Sudden changes or additions to the diet, such as feeding table scraps or milk, can also cause diarrhoea in some animals. Other diseases, such as a womb infection (pyometra) kidney disease and liver disease can also be involved.

Vomiting

If the pet has eaten a toy/sock or other foreign body or ingested chocolate or other poison then they should always see a vet.

If the pet is vomiting blood or looks otherwise ill, or is elderly/weak, or the vomiting has persisted for more than 24hrs, or if the owner is worried then they should always see a vet.

Diarrhoea

If the pet is passing blood, looks unwell, is elderly/weak or is not vaccinated then they should always see a vet.

If the pet is bright and well, and there is no cause for concern then the standard advice would be –starve 24hrs, either offer small amounts water or electrolyte solution and if no further vomiting then introduce a highly digestible bland food and feed little and often for 3-5days then gradually wean onto the normal diet. If this does not work or the pet is becoming dehydrated then an appointment should be made to see a vet.

Feeding the right diet is crucial for the improvement of digestive tract disorders. Everyone who comes into contact with your pet should realise the importance of feeding only the recommended diet; this means avoiding any treats or snacks. It is also important that your pet be prevented from scavenging food from the rubbish or from outside