



ABOUT THE DISEASE

Clostridial diarrhea (also known as *clostridial enterotoxigenesis*) is an intestinal syndrome caused by inappropriately high levels of a bacteria named *Clostridium perfringens*.

This bacterium can be found as a normal inhabitant of the canine intestinal tract, but is also often found in decaying vegetation, raw or improperly-cooked meats, and poultry. In some circumstances, canine patients may acquire the disease in boarding facilities or from other canines.

Common symptoms include:

- Large bowel (mucoïd) diarrhea
 - Can occasionally affect small intestine, producing a more watery diarrhea
- Feces containing visible blood
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Straining to defecate
- Increased flatulence

Clostridial diarrhea is often more severe if the patient is also ill from another intestinal or systemic disease.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A fecal test performed on fresh feces is the most effective means for detecting the bacteria, although it may be detected in up to 80% of canine patient's feces whether or not they have diarrhea.

TREATMENT

Clostridial diarrhea is relatively easy to treat with routine antibiotics, probiotics, and a high-fiber prescription diet. Unless a patient has diarrhea, they do not require treatment.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Always bring a fresh stool sample to your veterinarian when presenting your patient with diarrhea symptoms.