



CLOSTRIDIAL DIARRHEA

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 waterier 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.