



INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Chronic inflammation in the GI tract walls disrupts food movement, digestion, and absorption. Top cause of ongoing vomiting/diarrhea (1-2x/week, months/years) in dogs/cats.

Who's Affected:

Mostly middle-aged pets; rare in young ones.

Types (by Treatment Response):

- **Food-responsive:** Diet change resolves.
- **Steroid-responsive:** Anti-inflammatories help.
- **Antibiotic-responsive:** Infection-related.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Weight loss, thin body, dehydration, dull coat, abdominal tenderness—clues but not definitive.

Gold Standard: Biopsies

- **Surgical:** Most accurate, samples deep tissue.
- **Endoscopy/Colonoscopy:** Less invasive; may miss deeper issues.

Bloodwork Clues:

- cobalamin/folate test: Low B-vitamins (hard to absorb in IBD).
- Other panels: Rule out diseases; low proteins suggest IBD.

TREATMENT

Cut vomiting/diarrhea frequency; sustain healthy weight.

Acute Flares:

Supportive care for immediate symptoms (e.g., fluids, anti-nausea).

Long-Term Management:

- **Diet Shift:** Prescription limited-ingredient or hypoallergenic. Strict 8-week trial—no treats/table scraps!
- **Antibiotic Trial:** Tests responsive type.
- **Steroids:** Low-dose (Prednisone/Prednisolone standard; Budesonide milder option). Often ongoing.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Monitor for changes in stool consistency and frequency of vomiting to help the veterinarian best treat patients
- IBD is a permanent disorder which has several different management strategies.
 - Serious and life-threatening complications can arise if left untreated or treated inappropriately.