

 **PURINA**[®]
PRO PLAN[®]
VETERINARY
DIETS

Understanding your dog's

GASTRO- INTESTINAL CONDITION

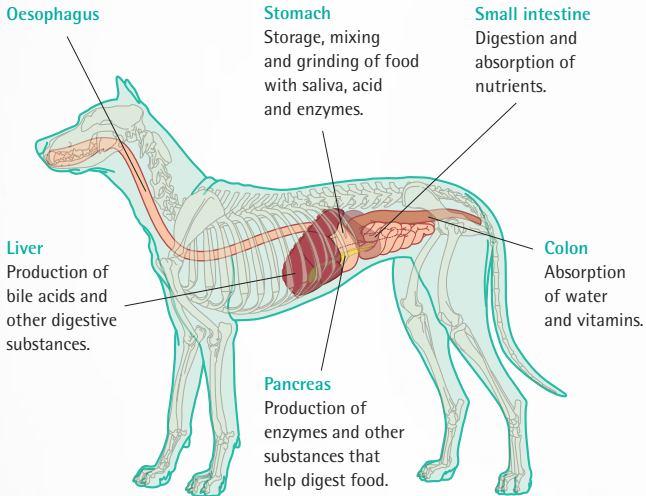


It's not uncommon.

Gastrointestinal diseases (usually associated with signs such as vomiting and/or diarrhoea) are some of the most common reasons dogs are taken to veterinary clinics. Some mild problems may resolve once the digestive system is given a chance to rest. Other more complex or serious conditions may require investigation and further treatment.

What does the gastrointestinal tract do?

With gastrointestinal problems, diet plays a crucial role in helping the condition resolve, and when diet is combined with other treatments most dogs will be able to make a complete recovery.



The gastrointestinal tract is primarily designed to digest food and absorb nutrients. Food, after chewing and swallowing, initially enters the stomach where it is mixed and ground into small parts and where the first steps of digestion begin.

However, most of the digestion and absorption of nutrients takes place in the small intestines. Powerful enzymes and other digestive substances from the liver and pancreas break down food components (such as proteins, fats and carbohydrates) into smaller molecules

that can be readily absorbed into the bloodstream and be used by the body for energy and to build or repair tissues.

The last part of the gastrointestinal tract is the colon (or large intestine). Here, water and minerals are absorbed into the bloodstream, and undigested matter and waste is eliminated as faeces.

What causes gastrointestinal upsets in dogs?

An extremely wide range of disorders can affect the gastrointestinal tract. Some diseases occurring in other parts of the body can affect the gastrointestinal tract (e.g. hormonal disorders), but most commonly the underlying disease will involve the gastrointestinal tract itself.

Gastrointestinal disorders generally impair a dog's ability to digest and absorb nutrients, and many cause irritation or inflammation in the intestine as well.



What are the signs of gastrointestinal disorders?

The most common signs of disease are:

- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting

However, a variety of other signs may be seen such as:

- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Constipation
- Excessive gas
- Blood or mucus in the faeces

How do vets make a diagnosis?

By examining your dog and finding out from you what has happened, your vet can often determine the underlying cause. However, in some cases, additional investigations are needed. In those cases, your veterinary surgeon may recommend a variety of different tests including:

- Faecal analysis
- Blood and urine tests
- X-rays or ultrasound examinations
- Endoscopy or possibly surgery to take biopsies



How can you help your dog?

Depending on the cause and severity of your dog's problem, treatment can range from simple dietary management (such as withholding food for a short period and then feeding a specific type of diet), to a combination of dietary therapy with medication, or even abdominal surgery.

Since most gastrointestinal disorders interfere with the complex process of food digestion, diet has a major role in therapy, in minimising the impact of the disease and in supporting recovery.

Food is important.

One of the main reasons dogs with gastrointestinal disease get diarrhoea, flatulence and weight loss is incomplete or poor digestion and absorption of nutrients from the food. This can cause direct irritation to the intestine, and can also result in abnormal bacterial proliferation.

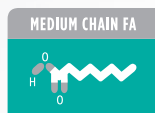
PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Canine EN Gastrointestinal has been specially designed to minimise poor digestion and absorption - and to support dogs with a wide variety of gastrointestinal conditions by providing selected ingredients that are very easy to digest. Canine EN Gastrointestinal also contains medium-chain fatty acids, easy to digest and absorb together with prebiotics and soluble fibre, which together help promote a healthy intestinal environment, especially in the colon.

Benefits of feeding Canine EN Gastrointestinal to your dog:



Low fat levels

To facilitate digestion.



MCFAs (Medium-chain Fatty Acids)

A specific form of fat from coconut which is easy for dogs to digest and absorb.



Low residue

Easy-to-digest ingredients to help reduce gut workload and minimise non-absorbed nutrients.

PURINA®: a name you can trust.

With PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Canine EN Gastrointestinal wet and dry products, you can be confident that your dog will benefit from optimum nutrition whilst their gastrointestinal upset is also being treated.

Whatever diet is prescribed by your veterinary surgeon, you can be sure that PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS are backed by strong science, so the latest nutritional findings can be applied to the development of innovative formulas. You can feel confident that you are providing optimum nutrition while helping your dog's digestive tract recover.

Feeding guidelines for Canine EN Gastrointestinal.

Canine EN Gastrointestinal is an important part of caring for your dog with a gastrointestinal condition. Follow your vet's instructions carefully and avoid feeding table scraps, treats or supplements. Gently warming the canned food can also enhance its palatability for dogs with a poor appetite.

The following is recommended as a guideline only. You may need to adjust the amount fed to maintain your dog's optimal weight which is influenced by factors such as environment, activity, body condition and breed. Provide fresh water in a clean container daily. Canine EN Gastrointestinal is also suitable for puppies, please ask your vet for the feeding guidelines.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Body weight (kg)	Daily feeding quantities (adult maintenance)			
	Dry Only (g/day)	Wet Only (can/day)	Wet + Dry Combined	
			Wet (can/day)	Dry (g/day)
2.5	70	1/2	1/4	40
5	110	1	1/2	50
10	175	1+1/2	1	55
15	230	2	1	110
25	325	2+2/3	2	80
35	405	3+1/3	2	160
45	480	4	2	235
70	645	5+1/3	3	280

For each additional 5kg of body weight, feed an additional 35g of dry food or 1/3 of can per day.

PURINA®
PRO PLAN®
VETERINARY
DIETS



Your veterinary clinic details:

For more information about PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets,
contact your local sales representative or visit www.purina-proplan.co.uk/veterinarydiets

Ask the Experts

UK: 0800 212 161 IE: 1800 509 368 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday
Nestlé Purina UK Commercial Operations Limited, 1 City Place, Gatwick, RH6 0PA

Please note that all indications for PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets mentioned in this leaflet are for the dietary support of dogs with the listed conditions and do not preclude appropriate medical management. The veterinary diets should be used under veterinary supervision. ®Reg. Trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.