



# Seward County Kennel Club

A CLUB FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND THE SPORT OF DOGS.

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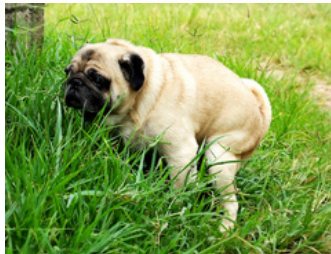
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Information for the newsletter, including brags, needs to be submitted by the first week of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Please email submissions to the editor.

## A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR DOG DIARRHEA



It's not a topic anyone likes to discuss, but if you own a dog, chances are you have found yourself cleaning up a stinking brown puddle (or, politely put, doggie runs) more than you'd care to think about.

Diarrhea is a common canine affliction and it varies in frequency, duration, and intensity from dog to dog.

You may not be able to totally prevent diarrhea, but knowing as much as possible about it might help limit the number times your dog has one of these unpleasant episodes and reduce the duration when the runs do come.

### The Canine Digestive System

There are significant differences between the way dogs and people digest food.

Human jaw shape and salivary enzymes, for example, will start breaking down a morsel in the mouth. Dogs, on the other hand, have mouths and jaws made for tearing, crushing, and wolfing food down. Their salivary enzymes are mostly designed to kill bacteria, which is why they can tolerate items that would send their human companions to the hospital.

Food travels rapidly down the canine esophagus and enters the stomach in chunks, where most digestion takes place. Canine stomach acids are about three times stronger than those of humans, so they can digest food that is pretty much intact. Under normal circumstances, transit time from mouth

*continued on page 2.*

## NEXT MEETING October 15, 2020

Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St, Seward, NE 68434

No Special Program - General Meeting 7:30pm

# MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2020 members of the SCKC met at the Seward dog park to consider options for the Marlene Bieber approx. \$845.00 memorial in the kennel club's keeping. Present Cindy Hill, Tabitha Dvorak, Diane & Gerold Nitz, Chris Corum, Mary Bristol, Tanya Williams. Proceeded to fairgrounds.

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Dog Lovers meeting met at Independence Landing at the fairgrounds. Each bought their on meal due to Covid. Additional members who came were Pat Schindler, Vicki Nolte. Nine dogs were present. Meeting was called to order by president, Tabitha Dvorak at 7:25pm.

July minutes were read but since there was no July meeting, it was determined that minutes were from May meeting, with the correction, Diane motioned to approve reading, second by Cindy, motion passed.

Treasurer reported the current balance, Pat motioned to accept, Chris seconded, motion passed. Tanya turned in a bill for two tote bags purchased for the "best junior handler" at 2021 dog show. Mary reimbursed. It was reported that very minimal charges (which will be with Foy Trent) were incurred by the 2020 dog show cancelation.

Chris reported obedience classes are scheduled for Sept. 14 to Oct. 26. Registration is limited to 18 dogs per class and the basic will be outside as much as possible. Cindy is in charge of phone and online registration, paypal will be used for payment. Chris to inquire about a 'covid 19' waiver with our insurance company. Tanya motioned, Diane second to allow Chris to purchase two voice amplifiers w/ rechargeable Lithium batteries and accessories as needed plus hand sanitizers, masks, etc. for the classes, motion passed. Lester has agreed to teach basic and Mary puppy. Registration night is Sept. 14, 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

Troy Dvorak is in charge of the Fun Match at the 2021 dog show. 2021 show chair is Tabitha Dvorak, she will confirm with AKC our show date as May 7-8-9, 2021 and send in applications.

Unfinished business: Chris to contact Marlyn Varner, dog park person, asking to whom memorial should be sent and learn if the shelter at the park has been sponsored, if not we would like it to donate the memorial money to that cost, with a plaque on the shelter reading "In memory of Marlene Bieber, Seward County Kennel Club". As the memorial totals approx. \$845.00, Diane Nitz motioned that the kennel club add funds to make donation \$1,000.00, Pat Schindler second, motion passed. (If shelter is not available, we will make a stipulation that monies be used specifically for dog equipment in yard areas.)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by secretary pro tem, Tanya Williams 8-20-20

*DOG DIARRHEA continued from front page.*

through the small and large intestines should be under 10 hours, producing a firm, well-formed stool at the end.

## **Dirty Dozen—Top 12 Causes of Doggie Diarrhea**

Many things can disrupt this well-balanced system, causing diarrhea or, less frequently, constipation. Some things, like eating too much grass, are not serious at all. Others can be a sign of a life-

threatening problem, such as an indigestible object (like a rock) lodged in the stomach, or a disease like cancer.

There are many reasons why a dog may develop loose stools, but most cases may be attributed to one of these 12 triggers:

1) **Dietary indiscretion:** Eating too much, eating garbage, or spoiled food. There's actually a name

for it in veterinary circles—“garbage toxicosis” or “garbage gut.”

2) **Change in diet:** It may take a few days for a dog’s digestive system to adapt to new proteins. That’s why many dog-food manufacturers recommend that you go slow when you switch from one brand of food to another.

3) **Food intolerance**

4) **Allergies**

5) **Parasites:** Most of these will cause illness in puppies or in adults with weak immune systems: Roundworms, Hookworms, Whipworms, Coccidia, Giardia.

6) **Poisonous substances or plants**

7) **Swallowing an indigestible foreign body,** like a toy or a dozen or more socks.

8) **Infections with common viruses such as:**

Parvovirus, Distemper, Coronavirus.

9) **Bacterial infections,** such as salmonella.

10) **Illnesses,** such as kidney and liver disease, colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, and cancer.

11) **Antibiotics and other medications**

12) **Stress or emotional upset**

### What Stools Can Tell You About Your Dog’s Health

The consistency and color of diarrhea reveal a lot about the cause of the problem and what is happening in your dog. Take very careful note of the

color, consistency, and anything else that might help when you describe the symptoms to a vet. In many cases, diarrhea will resolve after a few days of home treatment, but it’s a good idea to give your vet a call if it continues for a long period or has any one of several signs that may point to a serious problem.

The infographic below, from Just Right by Purina, gives you an idea of a “perfect dog poop,” which is chocolate brown, shaped like logs, compact, and easy to scoop. Experts say it should feel like cookie dough or Play-Doh when pressed. Large volumes, pudding-like or watery consistency, or signs of mucus (looks like jelly), or blood streaks, are not normal.

### Take Note of the Color of the Poop

Color can also indicate a lot about what is going on inside your dog’s gut. Chocolate brown is normal, while colors like orange, green, or gray may signify issues with such organs as liver, gall bladder, or pancreas. Black tarry stool is very serious, and may point to internal bleeding. If you see this, contact your vet as soon as possible.

Purina has also provided a handy reference—a color wheel of dog poop (see page 4).

Color, shape, and consistency will all help you and your vet figure out what is wrong when your dog gets



diarrhea. These factors will help your vet determine where the problem is originating along the dog's digestive tract.

**Other Ways to Decipher Dog Poop**

Following are some common abnormalities, in addition to color, and what each might be telling you about why your dog has the runs:

**Frequency:** Small amounts with straining, several times in an hour, which some people call "the squirts," can be a sign of inflammation of the large bowel. Three or four times, with large volume, suggest small bowel disorder.

**Oddly shaped or colored solid objects** can tell you what your dog has gotten into. Several small white rice-like shapes, for example, may signify a tapeworm infestation. Grass, wood, or string could tell you that your dog has eaten something that he couldn't digest.

**Consistency:** Nestlé Purina developed a well-illustrated chart, pictured on the following page, that shows how vets score canine fecal consistency on a scale of one to seven.

As disgusting as it may seem, it's important that you examine your dog's poop carefully if she has diarrhea and be able to give the vet as many details as possible. Armed with this knowledge, the vet will be able to tell you whether to schedule and exam or whether you can treat it at home.

**Home Remedies for Doggie Diarrhea**

A great many cases are mild and, with your vet's advice, may be treated without a trip to the office. They may respond to a regimen of very basic treatments, including:

**Fasts**

Withholding food for 12 to 24 hours, and providing water in small amounts frequently, can clear the cause of the upset and allow the gastrointestinal tract to settle. It's usually the first line of attack for the runs. Before you decide on a fast, be sure that your dog is healthy enough to endure it. Puppies, and elderly dogs, for example, need nutrients. Also, a fast may not be appropriate for little dogs, who do not have the physical reserves of their larger cousins.

Diarrhea can lead to dehydration, so make sure to give your dog access to water at all times. Many

# The Color Wheel of Dog Poop

*If your dog's poop is anything but chocolate brown colored, consult your veterinarian. Color changes could be an indication of larger, more serious internal problems.*



people also offer unflavored Pedialyte to maintain electrolyte balance.

### Cures from the Cupboard

After a fast, food is usually introduced slowly and many people start with binders, which can normalize stool consistency. Some tried-and-true methods include:

- **Rice water:** Boil high-quality rice in a lot of water, remove the grains, and offer the dog the creamy white soup that’s left. A splash of broth or a bit baby food will make it more palatable.
- **White rice**
- **Canned pumpkin** (plain, not prepared pie filling) has the odd distinction of being effective for diarrhea and constipation.
- **Yogurt**, which has beneficial bacteria, can help in dogs who can tolerate milk and milk products.
- **Probiotics**, live bacteria that aid digestion (these are also found in yogurt)
- **Boiled potatoes**, without skin
- **Cottage cheese**
- Plain protein sources such as **egg** (prepared with no butter or oil) or chicken (without skin)
- **Herbs**, such as fennel, have gut-soothing properties
- **Specially-formulated dog foods:** Some manufacturers offer foods that can sooth stomach problems. You may need to obtain these from your vet.
- **Over-the-counter medications for humans** may also be effective for doggie diarrhea, but should be given with caution and you should talk to your vet before using them.

Fecal Scoring Chart		
SCORE	SPECIMEN EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very hard and dry</li> <li>• Often expelled as individual pellets</li> <li>• Requires much effort to expel from body</li> <li>• Leaves no residue on ground when picked up</li> </ul>
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firm, but not hard, pliable</li> <li>• Segmented in appearance</li> <li>• Little or no residue on ground when picked up</li> </ul>
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log shaped, moist surface</li> <li>• Little or no visible segmentation</li> <li>• Leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up</li> </ul>
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very moist and soggy</li> <li>• Log shaped</li> <li>• Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up</li> </ul>
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very moist but has a distinct shape</li> <li>• Present in piles rather than logs</li> <li>• Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up</li> </ul>
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has texture, but no defined shape</li> <li>• Present as piles or spots</li> <li>• Leaves residue on ground when picked up</li> </ul>
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watery</li> <li>• No texture</li> <li>• Present in flat puddles</li> </ul>

Methods that work for one dog may not help another, so you might need to do a little experimentation to find the right formula. It might also be helpful to write down what works and what doesn’t so you’ll know what to do the next time you find yourself mopping up a mess.

Once you find a recovery diet that agree with your dog, and doesn’t cause a relapse, you can slowly increase the portions over a period of days, and then start to add small quantities of your dog’s regular food, until things are back to normal.

### When Doggie Diarrhea Means a Trip to the Vet

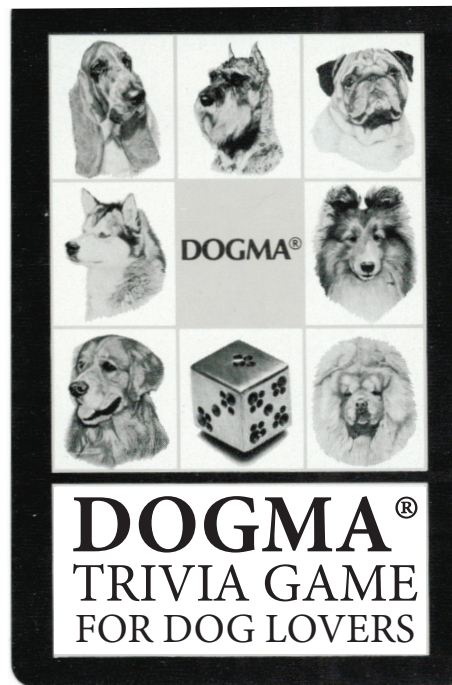
The right time to contact a vet depends very much on what’s normal for your dog. Unfortunately, some dogs are more prone to digestive disorders than others, so you have to be very aware of the things that are out-of-the-ordinary on an individual basis.

There are, however, benchmarks that can suggest that you should at least consult with your vet:

- **Other physical symptoms**, such as lethargy, fever, vomiting, dry, tacky or pale gums, or weakness;
- **Diarrhea that does not stop** despite home remedies that worked in the past;
- **Dehydration**;
- **Long duration** (Some say a few days, others give more time. This all depends on what is normal for your dog.);
- **Use of medication** (a dog on antibiotics, for example);
- **Existing conditions**, such as advanced age, diabetes, Cushing's, cancer, or any medical issue, and
- **When things just don't seem right.** You know your dog, and only you know the subtle signs that something is wrong. Respect your instincts and if you think you need veterinary guidance, pick up the phone.

-Mara Bovsun, Sept 17 2020, akc.org

1. A dog is said to have a gay \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Charles Dickens' book, *Oliver Twist*, Bulls-Eye is the name of Bill Sikes' \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Name the two AKC breeds whose names begin with the letter "R".
4. What was the name of the Scottie owned by President Roosevelt?
5. What Scottish veterinarian wrote 3 best-selling books?
6. Sodium hypochlorite solution is the disinfectant of choice to inactivate which of the following:
  - a. canine parvovirus
  - b. heart worm infestation
  - c. kennel cough



1. What is the name given to several small sharks?
2. What does the word "schipperke" mean?
3. Is it true that good Dalmatian puppies are born all white?
4. What dog is famous in Turkey, portrayed on a Turkish stamp, but not well-known outside of Turkey or recognized by the AKC?
5. Since what year has the Purebred Dog-American Kennel Gazette been published without interruption?
  - a. 1886
  - b. 1906
  - c. 1946
6. The Springer Spaniel and the Cocker Spaniel were first listed as individual breeds in:
  - a. 1790
  - b. 1945
  - c. 1972

Answers: Left card 1. tail 2. Bull Terrier 3. the Rhodesian Ridgeback and the Rottweiler 4. Fala 5. James Herriot 6. a. Right card 1. dogfish 2. Little Captain 3. yes 4. the Kangal Dog 5. a 6. a (Bewick's History of Quadrupeds).

## Seward County Kennel Club

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