



Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis is defined as an inflammation of the stomach and/or intestines. The animal often shows signs of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, lethargy and reluctance to eat.

There are many different causes of gastroenteritis. A few of the common causes include:-

- Sudden change in diet
- Worms
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Stress
- Bowel disease

Dehydration is a major concern for animals with gastroenteritis. Drugs are administered to stop the vomiting and diarrhoea and tests (such as blood tests, faecal float/smear, radiographs, and ultrasound) are performed to rule out other serious diseases which present with your animal showing the same signs.

Fluid therapy is required to restore hydration and electrolyte balances as well as to rest the gastrointestinal tract until the inflammation subsides. Therefore a period of nothing by mouth is needed.

Once your pet is able to go home it is recommended a diet of bland food for several days. A bland diet includes boiled chicken and rice or a commercial low fat diet. Slowly reintroduce the animals normal diet after 3-4 days. Mix the animals normal food with the low fat food with increasing ratios for example firstly mostly give the low fat food with a small amount of normal food, gradually changing it until more normal food is given than low fat food.