

COLITIS

Colitis is an inflammation of the colon, also known as the large intestine. Colitis can be acute, beginning suddenly and ending relatively quickly; or chronic, lasting for weeks and recurring periodically. Signs of colitis include blood and/or mucus in the stool, diarrhea, and frequent defecation of small amounts of feces. Chronic colitis may result in weight loss. Dogs with colitis can be managed through diet or a combination of diet and medication.

WHAT CAUSES COLITIS?

The more common causes of colitis include:

- Parasites such as hookworms, roundworms, whipworms or giardia.
- Food allergy.
- Bacterial, viral or fungal infections.
- Eating nonfood items such as grass, plastic or fabric.

HOW CAN I REDUCE THE RISK THAT MY DOG WILL GET COLITIS?

- Bring your dog in for regular fecal checkups with your veterinarian.
- Keep garbage and spoiled food away from your dog.
- Keep an eye on your dog — and what he or she eats — while outdoors.

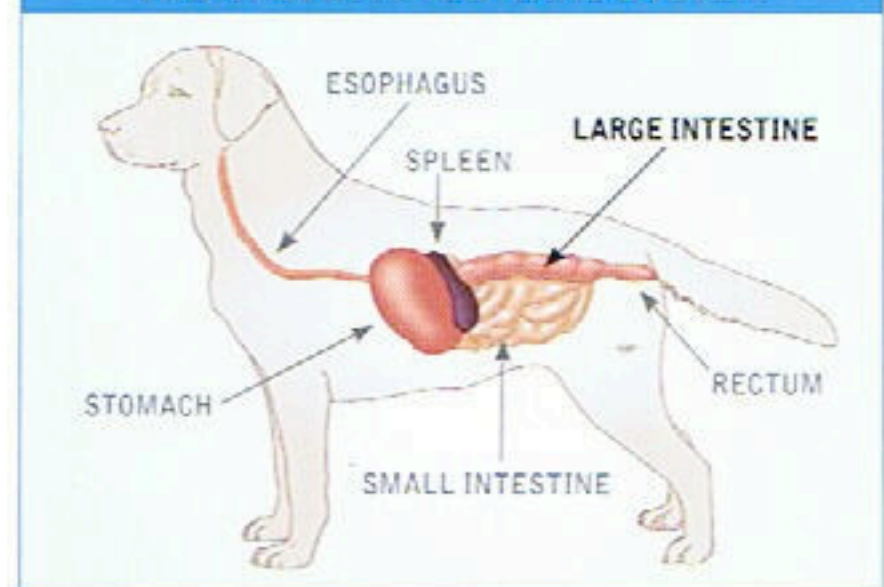
HOW IS COLITIS MANAGED?

Your veterinarian may prescribe medication for your pet. He or she may also recommend a special diet and/or dietary supplement that provides nutritional support for your pet with colitis.

WHY IS NUTRITION IMPORTANT?

A therapeutic diet developed for dogs suffering from colitis is a vital part of managing the condition. Some dogs with colitis need moderate levels of dietary fiber to help normalize colon function and nourish the cells that line the colon. Your veterinarian may also recommend **Purina Veterinary Diets® DCO Dual Fiber Control®** Canine Formula.

THE GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM



Colitis is an inflammation of the large intestine and can be managed with medication and/or a special diet.

Your veterinarian may also recommend a probiotic supplement to help restore the natural balance of microflora in the intestine that is disrupted by GI illness. **Purina Veterinary Diets® FortiFlora® Canine Nutritional Supplements** can be used with DCO to restore intestinal microflora balance, manage diarrhea and support ongoing immune system health. FortiFlora comes in a packet and is simply sprinkled on the food once a day.

Consult your veterinarian about specific questions you have regarding your pet's health, and be sure to follow his or her instructions.

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Printed in the U.S.A. VET 4279A-0611