

WHAT THE POOP?

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR DOG'S STOOLS AND STOMACH PROBLEMS

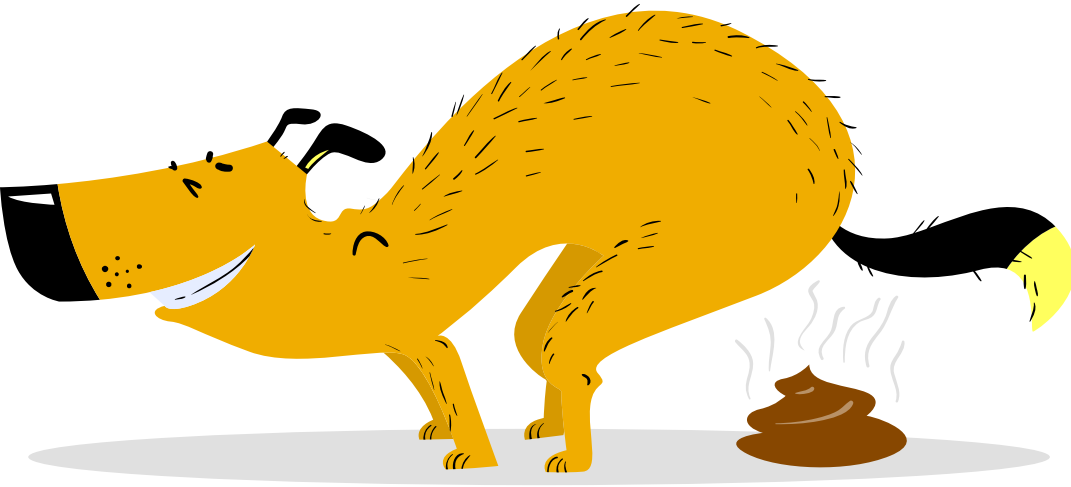


INTERMOUNTAIN
PET HOSPITAL

WHAT THE POOP?

Stuff You Need to Know About Your Dog's Stools and Stomach Problems

Nobody really wants to think or talk about their dogs' poop. (Well, we do, but we get paid to.) When pets do their business, most people just want to bag it, drop it in the trash and be done with it. And ideally, that's all you'd ever need to do.



But imagine this scenario. You're in the park with your dog when the call of nature hits. You get out the plastic bag, lean down and see that the poo has a funny color. Like, say, green or purple.

That might sound like something out of Dr. Seuss, but it actually happens. And as you might guess, it can spell big trouble for your dog.

Let's take a look at the issues surrounding your dog's poop. You'll learn to spot the signs of different health problems and what you can do.

The Not-So-Amazing Technicolor Poop



Poop can look differently depending on your dog's breed and the kind of food they eat. However, all things being equal, it should generally have a medium brown color and not be too hard or too soft (you can probably tell just by looking at it).

When your dog's poop has different colors, it can be a sign of various health problems. Here are some of the colors of the poop rainbow and what they mean:

WHAT THE POOP?



Black Poop

If your dog's poop looks black or unusually dark, it could be a sign of blood entering their stomach and getting digested. This can mean that your dog may have an ulcer in their stomach or intestines. They could also have eaten some aspirins or rat poison.

Black poop is also a potential symptom of Melena, a condition where the upper part of your dog's gastrointestinal tract starts bleeding. This could be a result of:

- Bleeding disorders
- Cancer in the pancreas, stomach or esophagus
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Side effects of a medication

Whatever the cause of black poop may be, you should take your dog to a vet for a comprehensive diagnostic checkup. Problems like these can put your pet's life at risk.



Red Poop

When your dog's poop looks red, it's a sure sign of blood. This could result from:

- Colon inflammation
- Bleeding in their gastrointestinal tract
- An injury in your dog's rectum
- An infection in your dog's anus or anal glands
- Worst case scenario could be a tumor

If you see red or signs of blood in your dog's number two, call your vet and let them know what the symptoms are, he or she may want to examine your dog to check for other underlying issues.



Brown with Mucous Layer Poop

Often times your pup will have a slight mucous layer on his stool due to some anal gland secretion, and this is normal. What we are referring too is a very substantial, thick layer of mucous that comes with the brown stuff.

This kind of number could mean your pooch has inflammation in his colon from a number of reasons:

- Dietary Indigestion
- Stress
- Parasites
- Infection

WHAT THE POOP?

If you see this type of poo, call your vet to find out what the best course of action would be.



Orange Poop

Orange poop could mean that your dog's suffering problems in their liver, gall bladder or bile ducts. The poop can turn that color because bile gets into it somewhere in the process.

Orange poop isn't always a sign of disease, though. Sometimes, it turns that color because food's passing too quickly through your dog's. Still, you should have a vet check out your pet just in case.



Pink or Purple Poop

Pink or purple dog poop can be a symptom of a disease known as HGE (short for hemorrhagic gastroenteritis). HGE can be caused by a variety of things, including:

- Diseases of your dog's immune system
- Intestinal parasites/bacteria
- Eating something toxic
- Eating something that isn't food

Sadly, funny colored poo might be the least of your dog's worries with this disease: Symptoms also include bloody diarrhea and vomiting. If your dog shows signs like these, get them emergency care as soon as possible—many dogs with HGE die if they aren't treated.



Grey/Shiny Poop

If your dog's poop looks greasy or grey and comes in big, soft mounds, they could be suffering from a condition called EPI (Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency), better known as maldigestion. EPI occurs when your dog's pancreas doesn't have enough of the enzymes it needs to digest fat properly. German Shepherds and Collies are especially prone to getting EPI. A vet can treat EPI in your dog easily.



Green Poop

Green poop can be a sign that your dog's eating way too much grass. It could signify something much worse, though, like parasites or eating rat poison. Take your dog to the vet so you can know for sure.

WHAT THE POOP?



Yellow Poop

If your dog's poo is coming out yellow, it could be a sign of an upset stomach. Check the stuff your dog eats—something might not agree with them. And if the problem persists, please make an appointment for you furry friend.



White Spots

If their poop has little white specks in it, your dog might have worms. Take your pet to the vet soon than later.

Constipation & Its Discontents

Another problem regarding your dog's bathroom habits is poo being too hard or not coming out on a regular basis. Typical causes of constipation in dogs include:

- Not enough fiber in their diet
- Eating stuff like toys or cat litter
- Old age
- Not getting enough exercise
- Hypothyroidism and other diseases that affect a dog's metabolism

- Tumors in their gastrointestinal tract or around their pelvis
- Enlarged prostate
- Injuries to their anal glands
- Damaged spines or spinal diseases
- Dehydration
- Side effects of drugs
- Orthopedic problems (make it harder for dogs to squat)
- Stress and other psychological issues

If your dog experiences constipation for too long or too often, it can create some serious problems. Dried poop can get stuck in their colon, causing it to get bigger and become unable to push feces out.

Take your dog to the vet if they seem prone to constipation. Some good notes to jot down and relay to your vet includes:

- Any changes in your dog's diet or daily routines
- How long your dog has had constipation

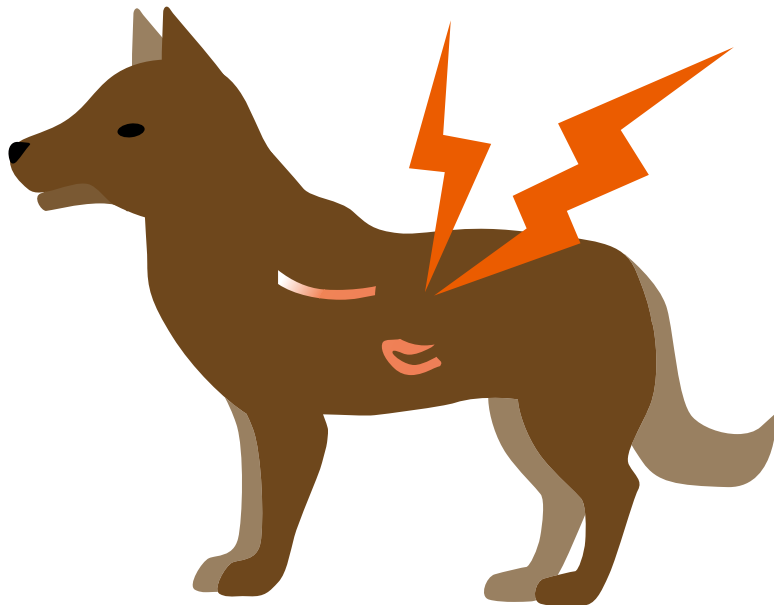


WHAT THE POOP?

- The color and consistency of your dog's poop
- Anything your dog might have eaten other than food
- Any drugs that your dog has been given recently
- Injuries that your dog has sustained recently
- Vomiting, lethargy or any other signs of discomfort

Diarrhea Problems

As owners probably know all too well, dogs will eat just about anything. Because of that, they can get diarrhea a lot. However, it can also occur when a dog's suffering from a serious health problem like:



- Bacterial infection
- Pancreatic disease
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Various parasites (hookworms, roundworms, etc.)
- Food allergies
- Various cancers
- Liver failure
- Heart disease

Your dog could experience problems like this along with diarrhea:

- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Lethargy

If your dog has diarrhea, here are some things you can do:

- Give them plenty of clean water to drink.
- Give them Pedialyte or diluted chicken/beef broth.
- Add some pieces of boiled chicken (white meat) and rice to their meals (this can help improve their poop's consistency).

WHAT THE POOP?

If you've noticed your dog vomiting 1-2 times while they have diarrhea, these are some steps you should take:

- Don't give them any food for 12 hours.
- Give them a little bit of water at regular intervals to prevent dehydration (you can add some diluted broth or Pedialyte too).
- Feed your dog a little white rice and boiled, white meat chicken if they haven't thrown up for 6 hours or longer.
- Keep doing the above—gradually make the portions bigger and space meals out more until your dog's poop goes back to normal.

If your dog's diarrhea lasts for more than 24 hours or starts showing any of the major problems listed above, make an appointment with your vet.

Important Info About Your Dog's Anal Glands

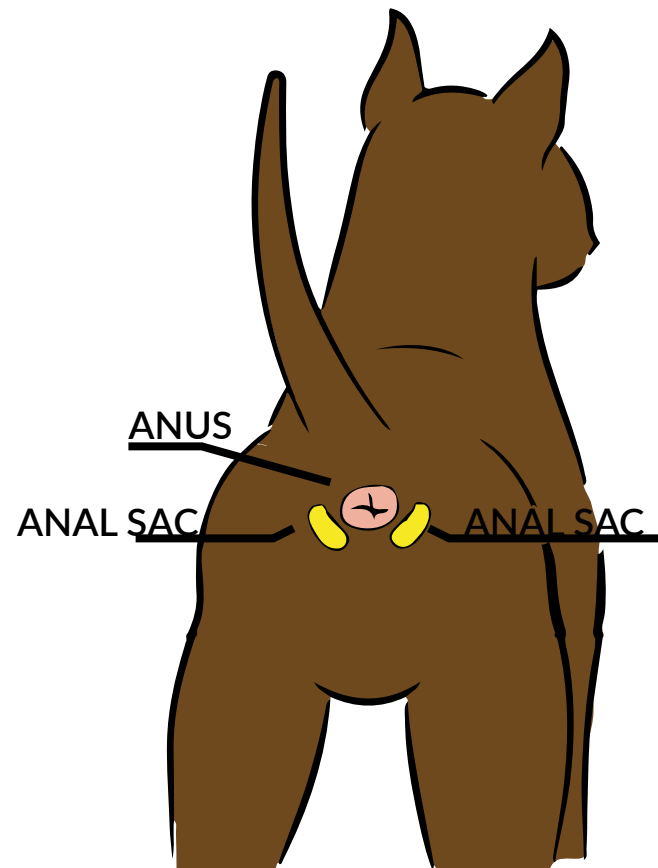
In addition to poop, it's important to know the facts about your dog's anal glands (don't worry—this is just information you can put in the back of your mind).

Dogs have anal glands (or anal sacs) slightly below their anuses on both sides. These glands produce an odor that tells other pooches how old they are, what their health is like and more (that's why dogs sniff each other's butts).

Anyway, most dogs empty out these glands just by pooping. However, a small percentage of them (about

10% of dogs) might have something weird in their anatomy that prevents them from expressing their own glands. So, they'll try to empty their glands by scooting along the floor and licking their buns a lot.

A veterinarian can determine if



WHAT THE POOP?

something's not right with your dog's glands. If they're infected or have been damaged somehow, they may need to be removed altogether.

Know the Straight Poop about Your Dog

Thinking about your dog's poop and butt isn't the most pleasant activity. However, they're an important part of their overall health. By following these tips, you can keep your pet healthy and catch some major problems before they get worse.

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THE SCOOP ON YOUR DOG'S POOP

BLACK	Black stools could be a sign of blood entering their stomach and getting digested. This can mean that your dog's liver is off in their stomach or intestines. They could also have eaten some aspirin or rat poison.	See your vet
RED	Seeing red is a sure sign of blood. This could result from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colon inflammation or bleeding in their gastrointestinal tract• An injury in your dog's rectum• An infection in your dog's anal or anal glands• Worst case scenario could be a tumor	See your vet
BROWN w/ MUCUS	A slight mucus layer is normal. When a very substantial, thick layer of mucus covers the poop, your pooch has inflammation in his colon from dietary indiscretion, stress, parasites or an infection.	See your vet if it happens every time
ORANGE	Orange poop could mean problems in their liver, gall bladder or bile ducts. Sometimes, it turns that color because food's passing too quickly through your dog's GI, you should have a vet check out your pet just in case.	See your vet
PURPLE / PINK	Pink or purple dog poop can be a symptom of HGE (short for hemoragagic gastroenteritis). HGE can be caused by a variety of things, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes in your dog's immune system• Intestinal parasites/bacteria• Eating something toxic or that isn't food	See your vet ASAP
GREY / GREASY	Grey or greasy poo comes in big, soft mounds, and could mean EPI (Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency), better known as malabsorption. German Shepherds and Cocker Spaniels are especially prone to getting EPI. A vet can treat EPI in your dog easily.	Call your vet for possible EPI
GREEN	Green poop can be a sign that your dog's eating way too much grass. It could signify something much worse, though, like parasites or eating rat poison. Take your dog to the vet so you can know for sure.	Call your vet for possible EPI
YELLOW	If your dog's poops coming out yellow, it could be a sign of an upset stomach. Check the stuff your dog ate—something might not agree with them. And if the problem persists, please make an appointment for your furry friend.	See your vet if it happens every time
BROWN w/ WHITE SPOTS	If their poops has little white specks in it, your dog might have worms. Take your pet to the vet soon than later.	See your vet

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