

# Diarrhea is a Black Box. Can't tell what's in there.

## How To Figure it Out the "Right" Way according to Veterinary corporate MBA's ...and I'm Not Kidding:

Bloodwork, Fecal parasite exams, fecal culture, Trypsin-like Immunoreactivity Test, radiographs and ultrasound of intestines and colon, aspirate of Mesenteric Lymph Nodes, endoscopic biopsy of colon wall, colonoscopy, and urinalysis. Ticket: \$3,695.<sup>00</sup> to \$4,095.<sup>00</sup>

## Here Are the Rule Outs

1. Bacterial Colitis: Leading cause in adult dogs. Metronidazole or Albon
2. Bacterial Overgrowth Syndrome & Hyperacidity: Famotidine and Albon, or Metronidazole.
3. Adverse Food Reaction: Establish diet, change to low fat i/D plus or minus pumpkin, and reassess at end of small bag.
4. Intestinal parasites: Poop-check, and/or Drontal deworming.
5. Giardiasis: Metronidazole
6. Coccidia: Albon
7. Viral Enteritis (Parvo, Corona, etc.)
8. Hemorrhagic Colitis: Sucralfate, Metronidazole, and most of the treatments for IBD
9. Mal-digestion / Mal-absorption. Body doesn't make adequate digestive enzymes.
10. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD): Low Fat i/D diet, Sulfasalazine, DMSO.
11. Spastic Colon: Phenobarbital and or Loperamide (these may figure in most diarrheas)
12. Colon Cancer: Pinch biopsies, colonoscopy.

There is considerable overlap among the above. Most cases get Loperamide. The above list attempts to illustrate how 'varied' and 'numerous' the possibilities are.

With ELEVEN likely rule outs, if you're going to "try stuff" you kind of have to knock things down pretty fast. But you can't "try" everything at once because you won't know what worked, and some treatments contradict each other. Since the above list is ordered by COMMON-ness, you knock down the first FIVE in the first "try". **(1-5)** That fixes ALMOST everyone.

If the diarrhea comes back promptly or isn't responding, you change gears and treat **6 through 8**.

If the diarrhea comes back promptly or isn't responding, you change gears and treat **9 & 10**. Not-uncommonly, maldigestion sends whole, undigested proteins into the intestines or colon and this is a frequent cause of inflammatory bowel disease.

If the diarrhea STILL isn't responding, you start thinking colon / stomach cancer.

**ANYWHERE** along in there if the owner is experiencing the MESS of a dog with, literally, **water**-poop you can treat spastic colon with Phenobarbital **#10**. It doesn't interfere with an eventual diagnosis at all and it's GREAT for really BAD diarrhea.