

Constipation in Dogs

If your dog hasn't gone to the bathroom for two days or more, it's time to chat with your vet. Constipation can be concerning, and you might notice your pup straining, crying when trying to poop, or even seeing blood in their stool.

This issue can happen at any age, but older dogs are more prone to it. If you think your dog might be constipated, definitely reach out to your vet for advice.



Is My Dog Constipated?

You should be on the lookout for some signs that your dog might be having trouble. Here are a few things to watch for:

- Straining to poop
- Whimpering or crying while trying to go
- Crouching repeatedly without success
- Loss of appetite
- Hard, dry stool
- Blood in their stool

Why is My Dog Constipated?

There can be several reasons why your dog is experiencing constipation. Some of the most common causes include:

- **Dehydration:** Not drinking enough water can lead to hard stools.
- **Foreign Bodies:** Things like bones can get stuck in their digestive tract.
- **Prostate Issues:** This is particularly relevant for male dogs.
- **Medications:** Some drugs can cause constipation as a side effect.
- **Blocked or Infected Anal Glands:** These can also contribute to the problem.
- **Loss of Appetite:** If your dog isn't eating, there won't be much to pass.
- **Recent Tummy Troubles:** After an upset stomach, it's not uncommon for dogs to skip a day or two.
- **Lack of Opportunity:** Some dogs are picky about where they do their business.
- **Pain or Difficulty:** If your dog is limping or having trouble balancing, it might affect their ability to go.



How is Constipation in Dogs Treated?

When it comes to treating constipation, your vet will suggest a plan based on the cause. Some common treatments include:

- **Dietary Changes:** Adding more or less fiber to your dog's diet can help.
- **Laxatives:** These can be prescribed to soften their stool.

- **Enema:** In more serious cases, your vet might perform an enema, which involves injecting liquid into the anus to help push out any blockages. This is often necessary if your vet needs to do an X-ray to figure out the issue.

If you suspect your dog is constipated, don't hesitate to reach out to your vet—they're there to help!