

when should you get your dog checked?

**If your dog is lethargic,
depressed, straining hard
or frequently, passing
blood with the faeces or
vomiting it is a good idea
to get a veterinary check.*

**If your dog is very young,
unvaccinated , pregnant or
very old do not wait more
than 1-2 days before talk-
ing to one of our staff.*

**If you are having a check
up remember to bring a
fresh sample of your dogs
faeces along.*

Client information series

doyalson animal hospital
423 Scenic Drive
Doyalson NSW 2262

Phone: 43 992129
Web: www.centralcoastvet.com

Diarrhoea

Client information series

doyalson animal hospital

Phone: 43992129

Diarrhoea

The term diarrhoea may imply one or more of the following problems:

- 1) Unformed faeces
- 2) An increase in frequency of defecation.
- 3) An increase in volume of faeces.

Diarrhoea is not a disease but rather a symptom of many other diseases. Mild cases may resolve easily with simple treatments, while more severe cases may be fatal. Even diarrhoea from mild causes may be fatal if not treated early enough to prevent nutritional and fluid imbalances.

Causes of Diarrhoea: There are many causes of diarrhoea in dogs, ranging from simple dietary upsets through to diseases such as Parvovirus Enteritis

and Cancer. The following is a list of the most frequently encountered causes:

- Diet changes and diet intolerances
- Parasites
- Bacterial overgrowth
- Ingestion of rubbish or foreign objects.
- Poisons
- Viruses
- Autoimmune diseases
- Cancer

Diagnosis: The diagnosis of the underlying cause may be a simple process, or may involve a series of laboratory tests.

Sometimes the cause of the problem is evident at consultation from the history and examination findings but often some tests are required in a process of elimination.

Some tests that may be routinely carried out are a faecal floatation, checking for parasites and coccidial infections and blood tests for digestive enzyme function

and signs of organ dysfunction or infection. Sometimes faecal cultures will be needed to try and isolate bacterial causes.

Occasionally contrast x rays and ultrasounds may help with diagnosis, and rarely an exploratory surgery to look at the bowel and remove biopsy samples may be suggested.

Treatment: often involves diet changes to a low fat diet fed in frequent small meals.

Sometimes special prescription diets are required and sometimes medications are used to control motility, treat parasites or bacterial infections. Severe cases usually require hospitalisation for intravenous fluids and medication by injection, especially when very young or old dogs are involved or when there are other concurrent problems such as vomiting.