

Your pet's diarrhea can be treated without an antibiotic!

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

Good news! Based on a complete examination and the history you provided, your pet does not need treatment with an antibiotic. Here are some other recommendations to help your pet feel better.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ACUTE SMALL/MIXED DIARRHEA:

Diarrhea that suddenly starts in dogs and cats usually resolves on its own in about 5 days. Diarrhea often occurs when something upsets the normal balance of good “bugs” (bacteria) in the gut. There are actions we can take to help set the balance right again. These include temporarily providing a diet that is either easily digestible or higher in fiber, depending on the type of diarrhea your pet is experiencing. Though your pet may have received antibiotics in the past when experiencing diarrhea, we now know that antibiotics further upset the balance of good bacteria in the gut, including those that help heal the gut. Therefore, antibiotics should be used only when needed, because unneeded antibiotics can cause harmful side effects and promote antibiotic resistance.

HELP YOUR PET BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Feed a gut-friendly diet: [examples for small bowel diarrhea include: easily digestible low-fat options such as Purina ProPlan Veterinary EN cans, Hills Science Diet i/d low fat cans, Royal Canin Gastrointestinal Low Fat, etc.]

Directions: _____

Ex: See specific feeding instruction on the label added to the cans. Feed for 5–7 days.

When your pet's stool has normalized, transition to your pet's normal food by mixing $\frac{1}{2}$ regular food and $\frac{1}{2}$ new prescription diet for 1 day. Then $\frac{3}{4}$ regular food and $\frac{1}{4}$ new prescription diet for 1 day. Total transition time should take about 3 days once stools have normalized.

2. Ensure your pet stays hydrated by providing access to fresh water.

NON-ANTIBIOTIC MEDICATIONS PRESCRIBED TODAY:

3. Probiotics (good gut bacteria): [examples include: Purina ProPlan Veterinary Supplements, FortiFlora packets, Nutramax Provable, Visbiome Vet, etc.]

Directions: _____

Ex: Sprinkle 1 package on the last meal of the day/give one capsule a day for 7 days.

4. Additional therapies:

Recommended, if needed: _____

FOLLOW-UP:

If your pet's stool has not normalized in 3–5 days, if your pet's condition gets worse, or if you have other concerns, please contact your primary care veterinarian to discuss further diagnostics and diet options moving forward.

Special note for puppies: The provided diet is intended to be fed for no more than 5 days, as it is not formulated to support long-term nutritional needs of puppies.



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