

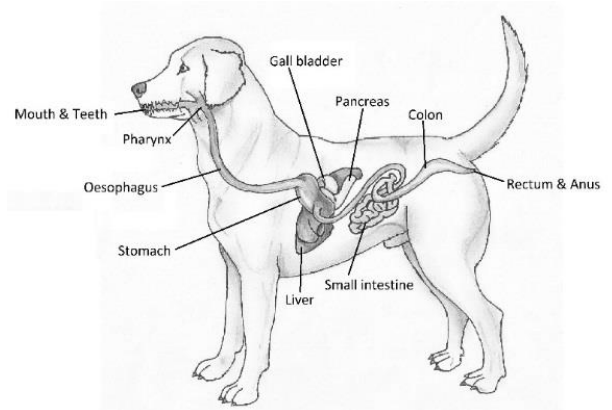


207 Withells Rd
Avonhead, Christchurch 8042
T 03 358 4407
E info@avonheadvets.co.nz
W www.avonheadvets.co.nz

Haemorrhagic Gastroenteritis (HGE)

Acute haemorrhagic diarrhoea also known as haemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE) is a sudden disorder of dogs characterised by vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Your dog will have inflammation in the lining of the bowels resulting in upset of the stomach, small intestines and the large bowl. Which leads to symptoms like nausea, upset stomach, or diarrhoea.

Potentially life-threatening intestinal condition of an otherwise healthy dog. The main and most disturbing clinical sign is large amounts of bloody diarrhoea, very often bright red. Some dogs may have a painful abdomen, decreased appetite, lethargy (fatigue), or fever.



Causes of HGE?

The exact cause of haemorrhagic gastroenteritis remains unknown. It may be related to dietary indiscretion (ingesting non-food items or different foods), immune-mediated disease, toxins, or pancreatitis. Stress, anxiety, and hyperactivity are thought to be possible contributing factors in many cases.

Treatment for HGE

An extremely serious condition needing immediate treatment. Aggressive treatment is complex and includes IV fluids, antibiotics and sometime even a blood transfusion. Prognosis is good with urgent and early treatment. We may also use diagnostic tools such as blood tests, radiographs and ultrasounds. In most cases, the disorder appears to run its course in a few days if the dog is given appropriate supportive care. Intravenous fluid therapy provides the foundation support, to help meet the significant fluid loss and dehydration. Additional therapy includes gastrointestinal protectants and anti-vomiting medications. In severe cases, plasma or colloids may be needed to correct severely low blood protein levels.

Recovery from HGE Episode

The faeces can be expected to gradually return to normal over the course of about one week. Probiotics (cultures of healthy bacteria) have been recommended to help repopulate the bowel but it is best to start these after recovery is well underway and the intestinal ulcers have healed. During recovery period, we recommend a bland, low-fat, low-fibre diet be fed for several days before returning to the normal diet. **Royal Canin Gastro-Intestinal Low Fat** or **Hills Canine I/D Low Fat** or **Hills Canine Biome diet**.

Can it be prevented?

Since the cause is unknown, it is difficult to give advice on prevention. However, reasonable suggestions are to feed a high-quality commercial diet, refrain from giving your dog extra foods or treats your dog is not accustomed to, use parasite preventive medications (worming tablets), and generally provide a low stress environment.

Should you have any enquiries or further concerns about the care of your dog, please do not hesitate to phone us at (03) 358 4407 to discuss. We hope they have a smooth recovery and get well soon!

Warmest wishes, the team at Avonhead Veterinary Clinic