

Haemorrhagic Gastroenteritis (HGE)

Information about Haemorrhagic Gastroenteritis (HGE)

Haemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE) is an acute disorder of dogs characterized by vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Most cases occur without warning in otherwise healthy dogs. The main clinical sign is large amounts of bloody diarrhoea, very often bright red. Some dogs may have a painful abdomen, decreased appetite, lethargy, or fever. HGE can affect any breed, age, size, or gender of dog, but it is most common in small- and toy-breed dogs.

How do we treat HGE?

Your veterinarian will run blood tests to look at electrolytes and hydration levels. In young dogs, faecal testing may be required to rule out parasitic causes of bloody diarrhoea. Intravenous fluid therapy, pain relief, anti-nausea and gastric protectant medications are the mainstay of treatment for HGE. Sometimes, antibiotic therapy is also required to help protect the gastrointestinal system. Recovery from HGE, may take 24 hours to recover but some pets will need a few days in hospital.

What causes HGE?

The exact cause of HGE 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.



If you're concerned your pet has HGE or has serious vomiting and diarrhoea please seek veterinary attention early. Our team of amazing veterinarians are available 24/7 for any emergencies when your vet is not available. Feel free to call us if you aren't sure you should see a veterinarian or not, and our team can assist you.



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