



GREYHOUNDS HEALTH AND WELLNESS QUARTERLY



By Liliana Marin & Guillermo Couto



Photos by: Steve Uyehara

DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS IN GREYHOUNDS

It's relatively common for Greyhounds to experience digestive issues, some of them of rapid onset and short course, and other persistent or of long-lasting course. The diseases most frequently associated with digestive problems are related to dietary factors, parasites, infection, stress, immune mediated disorders, or cancer.

There is an immense variety of commercial food options for dogs, the following link can be used to search by type, manufacturer, and categories from all the commercially available foods.

<http://2009.vet.ohio-state.edu/1442.htm>

Greyhounds are extremely sensitive to dietary changes; once you have found the option that works for your Greyhound and you, the recommendation is to avoid drastic or sudden changes.



Photo by Steve Uyehara



Image: Master isolated images / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

ACUTE DIARRHEA IN GREYHOUNDS: ROLE OF STRESS AND INFECTIOUS AGENTS. L Miller, CG Couto, CA Buffington, L Lord. Departments of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and Veterinary Preventive Medicine

In 2007 we investigated the role of intestinal pathogens and the stress response on acute diarrhea in Greyhounds. We evaluated 23 Greyhound with acute diarrhea. Fecal samples were used to culture *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Salmonella*, *Clostridium difficile* and *perfringens*. Serum cobalamin and folate concentrations were also evaluated. Plasma norepinephrine, and salivary and plasma cortisol were measured to assess the role of stress.

In this study, 74% of the Greyhounds with diarrhea tested positive for one or more pathogens. Sixty-four percent of Greyhounds had cobalamin and/or folate concentrations compatible with small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) or exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI). Greyhounds with diarrhea had significantly higher plasma cortisol concentrations. The study concluded that both stress and pathogens play a role in the development of diarrhea in Greyhounds.



G
R
E
Y
H
O
U
N
D
S

IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME (IBS) AND INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)

Persistent or long-lasting courses of diarrhea are associated with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and usually requires a combination of drugs and dietary management. The following table compares the definition, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of both IBS and IBD.

	INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)	IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME (IBS)
DEFINITION	Chronic inflammatory disease anywhere in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.	Group of signs, it's a functional disorder, not an inflammatory disorder.
SIGNS	<p>Signs of IBD are dependent on the location of the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic vomiting and weight loss associated with the stomach or upper small intestine. • Chronic diarrhea, weight loss and infrequent vomiting associated with the duodenum, ileum, and colon. • Large volume of watery feces (small bowel diarrhea). • Straining, sometimes blood, mucus, small volume of feces and frequent attempts to defecate (large bowel diarrhea) • Severe debilitating disease, fever, weight loss. 	<p>Signs linked to stress, behavioral, and dietary factors.</p> <p>Always acute (sudden).</p> <p>Highly nervous and excitable dogs may exhibit clinical signs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spastic colon • Discomfort • Diarrhea • Constipation • Cramping • Bloating • Gas
DIAGNOSIS	<p>Endoscopy or surgical biopsy is the only way to determine the predominant type of inflammatory cells in the wall of the bowel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common is lymphocytic-plasmacytic 	<p>The diagnosis can be made only by exclusion of other causes of chronic diarrhea such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency • Small intestinal disease • Colitis • Intestinal neoplasia • Megacolon
TREATMENT	<p>Strict dietary changes are essential for long-term results. Often diet will control the disease but in the majority of cases anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive drugs are added to suppress the immune system.</p> <p>Long-term "novel" protein source: no previous exposure diet should be fed to the exclusion of all other foods, medications and supplements for at least 8 weeks, before considering an alternative diet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most effective treatment is removal of the stress factor, but in many cases, drugs and dietary management may be required to maintain remission. • Treatment is symptomatic • Increasing dietary fiber also seems to help with this condition. • The disease in most cases goes into periods of remission with repeated outbreaks, unfortunately there is no universal drug or dietary regimen available. • It is manageable but not curable.



Photo by Steve Utjehara

EVALUATION OF STRESS DURING HOSPITAL VISITS IN RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS WITH AND WITHOUT DIARRHEA. L. Miller, CG Couto, CA Buffington, N Westendorf, MC Iazbik, LM Marin, P Vilar Saavedra. The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, OH.

Anecdotal evidence and our clinical experience suggest that acute diarrhea is common in a subset of healthy Greyhounds presented to hospitals. In 2008 we evaluated the salivary cortisol (hormone released in response to stress) concentrations of 36 healthy Greyhounds at the hospital and at home.

The salivary cortisol in the samples obtained by owners in the home environment were significantly lower than those obtained during the hospital visit. Greyhounds with diarrhea had significantly SOM higher cortisol concentrations than those without diarrhea.

Yogurt for dogs

Yogurt is an easy way to provide probiotics that help restore the healthy bacteria in their intestines.

We recommend 3 tablespoons of organic, full milk, NOT LOW FAT yogurt daily. Stonyfield Farms or Brown Cow are some of the options.



Image: Master isolated images / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

WE DEPEND ON YOUR GENEROSITY!!

“Our mission of helping the Greyhounds is supported by your kindness”.

To make a donation to the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program please use the link below to the secure website for online giving.

https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive/OnlineGiving/fund_results.aspx?Source_Code=WA&Fund=310050

We thank you very much for your generous support so that we may continue our mission to help the Greyhounds.

The Greyhound Health and Wellness Program
www.greyhound.osu.edu
 The Ohio State University-Veterinary Medical Center
 601 Vernon L. Tharp Street.
 Columbus, Ohio 43210
 Companion Animal Ph: (614) 292-3551



G
R
E
Y
H
O
U
N
D
S