



**Animal Health
Care Center**
of Hershey

Gastrointestinal Disorders

Your pet has been diagnosed as having a gastrointestinal disorder. These conditions can be caused by many things, including intestinal parasites, viral infection, bacterial overgrowth, fungal overgrowth, dietary indiscretion, toxin ingestion, and foreign bodies. It is very important that gastrointestinal disorders are treated to avoid dehydration, weight loss, and discomfort for your pet. More extensive gastrointestinal disorders may require more aggressive therapy.

Please carefully follow the instructions below. Call us if you have any questions or concerns at (717) 533-6745.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. GIVE THE ORAL MEDICATIONS AS DIRECTED ON THE LABEL. USE UNTIL GONE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY THE DOCTOR. (IF YOUR PET HAS BEEN VOMITING, WITHHOLD ORAL MEDICATIONS UNTIL THE VOMITING HAS RESOLVED).
2. EITHER PURCHASE A PRESCRIPTION DIET AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DOCTOR OR PREPARE A HOMEMADE DIET AS FOLLOWS:
 - BOIL PLAIN WHITE RICE UNTIL DONE (INSTANT RICE CAN BE USED). DO NOT ADD SEASONINGS!
 - BOIL LEAN HAMBURGER MEAT OR SKINLESS CHICKEN MEAT IN WATER IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN. WHEN FULLY COOKED, DRAIN OFF THE WATER, FAT, AND GREASE. DO NOT ADD SEASONINGS!
 - MIX 3 PARTS RICE TO 1 PART MEAT. THE MEAT IS JUST TO ADD APPEAL; THE RICE SHOULD BE THE BULK.
 - STORE IN REFRIGERATOR IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER.
 - REHEAT AND STIR AS NEEDED FOR MEALS OR CAN BE SERVED COLD.
3. OFFER THE BLAND DIET AS FOLLOWS:
 - WITHHOLD ALL FOOD AND WATER FOR _____ HOURS (GIVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BY MOUTH).
 - AFTER THE FAST (IF RECOMMENDED ABOVE), BEGIN TO OFFER SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER OR ICE CHIPS EVERY 2-3 HOURS. DO THIS FOR _____ HOURS (STILL GIVE NO FOOD AT THIS TIME).
 - AFTER PERIOD OF WATER/ICE ONLY, BEGIN TO OFFER SMALL AMOUNTS OF THE BLAND DIET EVERY 2-3 HOURS ALONG WITH FREE CHOICE WATER (suggested amount of diet for the weight of your pet: _____).
 - GRADUALLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF BLAND DIET OFFERED OVER 1-2 DAYS.
 - AFTER 2-3 DAYS OF FEEDING ONLY THE BLAND DIET, GRADUALLY BEGIN TO ADD IN YOUR PET'S REGULAR FOOD (VERY SMALL AMOUNTS TO START!).
 - WEAN YOUR PET OFF OF THE BLAND DIET AND BACK TO REGULAR FOOD OVER 4-5 DAYS.

**IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST OR WORSEN AT ANY TIME DURING THIS PROCESS,
CONTACT US RIGHT AWAY!!**

Call the hospital immediately if you have any questions or notice any problems. Our hospital phone number is (717) 533-6745.