COLITIS

Colitis is an inflammation of the colon, also known as the large intestine. Colitis can be acute, beginning suddenly and ending relatively quickly; or chronic, lasting for weeks and recurring periodically. Signs of colitis include blood and/or mucus in the stool, diarrhea, and frequent defecation of small amounts of feces. Chronic colitis may result in weight loss. Dogs with colitis can be managed through diet or a combination of diet and medication.

WHAT CAUSES COLITIS?

The more common causes of colitis include:

- Parasites such as hookworms, roundworms, whipworms or giardia.
- Food allergy.
- Bacterial, viral or fungal infections.
- Eating nonfood items such as grass, plastic or fabric.

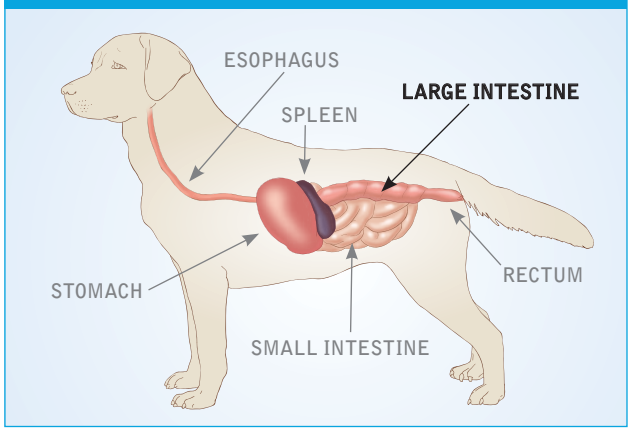
HOW CAN I REDUCE THE RISK THAT MY DOG WILL GET COLITIS?

- Bring your dog in for regular fecal checkups with your veterinarian.
- Keep garbage and spoiled food away from your dog.
- Keep an eye on your dog — and what he or she eats — while outdoors.

HOW IS COLITIS MANAGED?

Your veterinarian may prescribe medication for your pet. He or she may also recommend a special diet and/or dietary supplement that provides nutritional support for your pet with colitis.

THE GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM



Colitis is an inflammation of the large intestine and can be managed with medication and/or a special diet.

Consult your veterinarian about specific questions you have regarding your pet's health, and be sure to follow his or her instructions.

PURINA VETERINARY DIETS®

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