Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is an inflammation of the lining of the intestine. IBD is a chronic condition, but it can be managed with diet and/or medication. Clinical signs include diarrhea, weight loss and vomiting.

**WHAT CAUSES IBD?**
The cause of IBD is not well-defined. However, genetics, food allergy, infectious agents and immune system abnormalities all can play a role.

**HOW CAN I REDUCE THE RISK THAT MY PET WILL GET IBD?**
There may be little you can do to reduce the risk, particularly if your pet has a genetic predisposition to IBD or has a compromised immune system. The best course of action is to work with your veterinarian to manage the disease and its clinical signs.

**HOW IS IBD MANAGED?**
Depending on what your veterinarian determines is the underlying problem triggering IBD, medication and a special diet — or diet alone — may be recommended.

**HOW LONG SHOULD I EXPECT THIS CONDITION TO LAST?**
Inflammatory bowel disease is a chronic condition that may last your pet’s lifetime. The good news is that most pets with IBD can be successfully managed if owners carefully follow feeding and/or medication instructions from their veterinarians.

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