



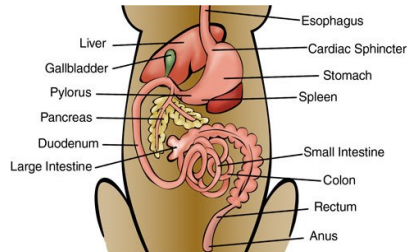
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

What is Irritable Bowel Syndrome?

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a condition characterized by long-term (chronic) intermittent signs of abnormal function of the large intestines (colon), in the absence of structural gastrointestinal disease.

"Gastro-" refers to stomach; "intestinal" refers to the intestines and "Bowel" refers to the intestines.

It can happen to any breed; especially working dogs or individual dogs considered to be more susceptible to stress.



Clinical Signs

- Long-term (chronic), intermittent signs of large-bowel diarrhoea, including frequent passage of small amounts of bowel movement (faeces) and mucus, difficulty defecating (known as "dyschezia"), and/or constipation
- Abdominal pain, bloating, vomiting, and nausea may occur
- Physical examination is often unremarkable

Treatment

Health Care

Outpatient medical management

Activity

Increased routine physical activity may reduce stress levels and may encourage more normal function of the large intestines (colon)

Diet

- A highly digestible diet with added soluble fibre often improves diarrhoea
- If increased soluble fibre is not beneficial, try increasing insoluble fibre in the diet
- Either soluble or insoluble fibre supplementation may result in variable improvement of clinical signs

What Medication is available?

Intestinal Motility Modifiers

- Opiate antidiarrheals improve signs by increasing rhythmic segmentation in the intestines
- Loperamide (Imodium)
- Diphenoxylate (Lomotil)

Antispasmodic

- Butylscopolamine (Buscopan)

Medications to Control Nausea and Vomiting Administered by Injection (Known as "Parenteral Antiemetics")

- If nausea and vomiting preclude administering medication by mouth, administer antiemetics by injection for 1-2 days
- Maropitant (Cerenia)
- Metoclopramide

Follow Up Care & Prognosis

Monitor stool consistency and watch for signs of difficulty defecating (dyschezia) and abdominal discomfort—call your pet's veterinarian if you observe changes in stool consistency or any signs of large-bowel problems. Be sure to minimise any stressful factors in the pet's environment that might precipitate an episode. You should see improved stools, decreased mucus, and relief of difficulty defecating (dyschezia) and abdominal distress within 1-2 days of starting medication. In some dogs, signs completely resolve following treatment and dietary alterations; others have long-term episodic signs.

