

# Efficacy of diet, antibiotics or probiotics for the treatment of canine acute gastroenteritis

## Purpose of study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of diet in treating acute canine gastroenteritis as compared to antibiotics or probiotics, with the belief that diet will be just as effective in alleviating gastroenteritis upset.

## Inclusion criteria

- Dogs of any breed, gender, or weight older than 6 months, and current on vaccinations
- Presenting symptoms of acute diarrhea but otherwise healthy - can have up to one episode of vomiting
- No evidence of systemic illness, including fever or refusal to eat
- No history of pancreatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, or endocrinopathy
- No suspicion of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
- A fecal score of 2.5 or lower on the Royal Canine 5-point scoring system

## Study procedure

The study will last 5 days. As a part of this study, one visit to the veterinarian is required for the patient. Upon the initial visit, the patient will have a fecal sample tested for parasites at no charge to the owner. Moreover, a fecal score will be determined at the start of the study and there will be continued scoring for the remainder of the study. Finally, patients will be randomized into one of four groups: antibiotics, probiotics, diet, or placebo group. Owners will be required to complete an online questionnaire and to report fecal scores daily during the 5-day period.



## Study benefits

- Initial visit: complimentary office visit, physical exam, and fecal analysis
- If eligible to participate, the patient will receive a 5-day supply of either dry food, antibiotic, probiotic, or placebo based on the patient's randomly assigned group. Dogs in the placebo group will receive no additional treatment.

## Costs to client

There is no cost to client during the 5-day study or the one-time, initial visit.

## Contact information

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