Treating Diarrhea in Shelter Dogs and Cats
Resource List

Parasite Prevalence Map, Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC)

Prebiotics, Probiotics and Intestinal Health, Veterinary Practice News, June 2011

Saving Neonatal Kittens, Maddie's Institute

Diarrhea in Kittens and Adult Cats, Debra L. Zoran, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Lifesaving Intake Protocols and Preventive Health Care Strategies, Maddie's Institute

GI Flora: Understanding the Role of Probiotics in Veterinary Medicine, Debra L. Zoran, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Nutritional Recommendations for Shelter Animals, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Antibiotics Commonly Used in Animal Shelters, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Diagnosis and Treatment of Protozoal Infections in Shelters, Maddie's Institute

Starvation and Re-Feeding Animals, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Developing Infectious Disease Policies and Protocols in an Animal Shelter, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Shelter Kittens with Tritrichomonas Foetus, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Infectious Disease Management in Animal Shelters; Lila Miller, Kate Hurley (Editors); Paperback; 400 pages; July 2009, Wiley-Blackwell.

• Chapter 14. Details on the common and uncommon internal parasites of the cat and the dog from a shelter perspective. Bowman DD. “Internal Parasites”

• Chapter 15 on GI disease, contains a comprehensive overview of the causes of diarrhea in shelter animals, including prevalence, prevention, mode of transmission, diagnosis, treatment, and zoonotic potential. Included also is a detailed explanation of the available tests for bacterial and protozoal diseases that can cause GI symptoms. Lappin MR, Spindel M. “Bacterial and Protozoal Gastrointestinal Disease”

Marcia L Hart, Jan S Suchodolski, Jörg M Steiner, Craig B Webb. “Open-label trial of a multi-strain synbiotic in cats with chronic diarrhea.” Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, April 2012, 14: 240-245. “The mean fecal score for the 53 cats completing the study decreased from 6.0 to 4.4, representing a significantly (P <0.001) firmer stool character. Seventy-two percent of owners perceived an improvement in their cat’s diarrhea following a 21-day course of synbiotic supplementation.”

Queen EV, Marks SL and Farver TB. “Prevalence of selected bacterial and parasitic agents in feces from diarrheic and healthy control Cats from Northern California.” Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine 2012; 26: 54-60. “Routine fecal cultures and toxin immunoassays for detection of bacteria are of limited diagnostic value in diarrheic cats. Molecular-based testing is superior to fecal cultures for detection and identification of Campylobacter spp., but positive test results do not correlate to the presence of disease.”


Spain CV, Scarlett JM, Wade SE, McDonough P. “Prevalence of enteric zoonotic agents in cats less than 1 year old in central New York State.” Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 2001 Jan-Feb;15(1):33-8. “Our results suggest that clinical signs such as diarrhea are not reliable predictors of whether a cat is actively shedding enteric organisms.”

Zoran, DL. “Nutritional Management of Feline Gastrointestinal Diseases,” Topics in Companion Animal Medicine, Volume 23, Issue 4, November 2008, Pages 200-206, ISSN 1938-9736, 10.1053/j.tcam.2008.08.003. “This article will review the current state of understanding of the role of diet in the management of GI diseases in cats and will offer the reader an overview of diet management strategies in cats.”


