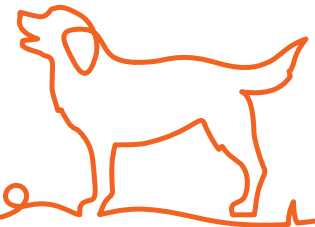


# What Is a Chronic Enteropathy?

## Canine IBD\*: How to Approach Challenging Cases

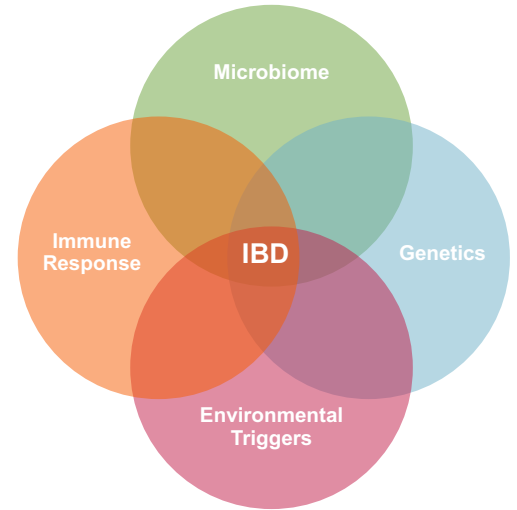


### What Causes Chronic Enteropathies

**The Old Theory:** “Idiopathic”

**The New Theory:** A complicated interplay of several factors (although technically still “idiopathic”)

- The most common cause of chronic diarrhea/vomiting in dogs<sup>1</sup>
- Chronic/recurrent signs; that is,  $\geq 3$  weeks<sup>1</sup>
- Diagnosis is via exclusion of any other cause of the clinical signs<sup>2</sup>
- Ideally by documenting inflammation on GI histopathology
- Classified based on response to treatment<sup>2</sup>



### Classifying Chronic Enteropathies

- Food-responsive
- Antibiotic-responsive
- Immunosuppressive-responsive (true IBD)

### Troubleshooting the Difficult Case: 10 Steps

#### Step 1. Make sure your diagnosis is correct.

- Have all extragastrintestinal diseases been excluded? e.g., Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, hypoadrenocorticism
- Is there a chance your biopsies were non-diagnostic?
- Could the disease have transformed since diagnosis? e.g., IBD to lymphoma
- Consider the breed

#### Step 2. Double-check your history.

- Is the owner feeding other protein sources?
- Is the dog a scavenger with unrestricted outdoor access?

#### Step 3. Reassess cobalamin status.

- General protocol is one subcutaneous injection every week for six weeks and then one injection a month later. Recheck cobalamin a month after that.<sup>3</sup>
- Some dogs need longer course of supplementation
- If oral supplementation has been given, consider parenteral administration<sup>4</sup>

#### Step 4. Try an alternative diet.

- If a novel protein diet has been tried, try hydrolyzed and vice versa<sup>5</sup>
- Consider an “ultra-hydrolyzed” diet

#### Step 5. Could there be occult GI parasitism?

- Fecal examination is important to exclude other causes of mucosal inflammation, such as nematodes and Giardia infection

#### Step 6. Consider probiotics.

- Data on efficacy of probiotics is mixed<sup>6</sup>

#### Step 7. Consider two immunosuppressive agents.

- Prednisolone and Cyclosporin
- Prednisolone and Chlorambucil
- Mycophenolate or Azathioprine

#### Step 8. Consider the addition of fiber.

- Type of fiber is important<sup>7</sup>
- Psyllium husk has ratio of 70:30 soluble: insoluble fiber

#### Step 9. Fecal transplant can be considered.

- No consensus on optimal approach
- Still very much in its infancy as a therapeutic modality in dogs<sup>8</sup>

#### Step 10. Request a consultation.

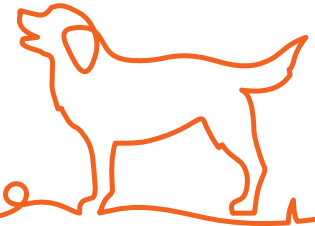
\*IBD: Inflammatory Bowel Disease

### References

1. Volkman et al. (2017). Chronic Diarrhea in Dogs - Retrospective Study in 136 Cases. *J Vet Intern Med.* 31(4), 1043-1055.
2. Dandrieux. (2016). Inflammatory bowel disease versus chronic enteropathy in dogs: are they one and the same? *JSAP.* 57:589-599.
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4. Toresson et al. (2018). Comparison of efficacy of oral and parenteral cobalamin supplementation in normalising low cobalamin concentrations in dogs: A randomised controlled study. *Vet J.* 232, 27-32.
5. Jergens AE, Heilmann RM. (2022). Canine chronic enteropathy-Current state-of-the-art and emerging concepts. *Front Vet Sci.* 9:923013.
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8. Tuniyazi M, Hu X, Fu Y, Zhang N. (2022). Canine Fecal Microbiota Transplantation: Current Application and Possible Mechanisms. *Vet Sci.* 9(8), 396.

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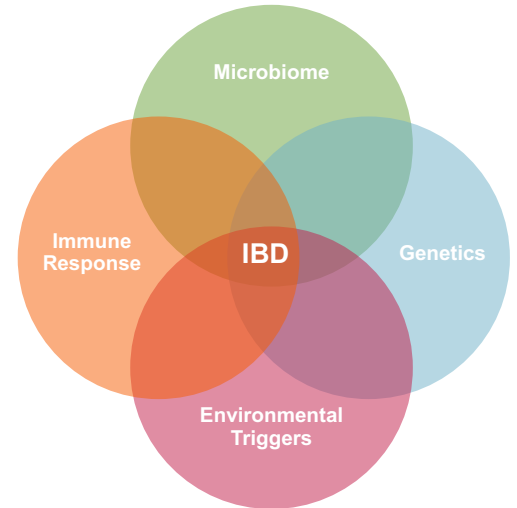


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