



Constipation In Dogs

The most common cause of constipation is poor diet (bones, hair, foreign material, excessive fibre). Other causes include dehydration, tumours and trauma (e.g. broken pelvis or tail base). Signs of constipation include straining to go to the toilet with no faecal production and a hard painful lower abdomen. The longer a dog is left constipated the longer (and more expensive) it is to treat it.

You can help prevent your dog from becoming constipated by ensuring you feed it a complete diet (e.g. mostly dog biscuits), make sure fresh water is always available and exercise your dog often.

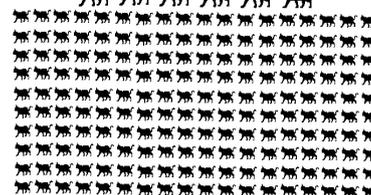
Entire male dogs are prone to developing prostatitis and prostatic tumours which may result in constipation.

If you think your pet is constipated don't leave it to the end of the week to 'wait and see'. Get it into the clinic and it is likely to be treated more simply and discharged a lot sooner than if left any longer.

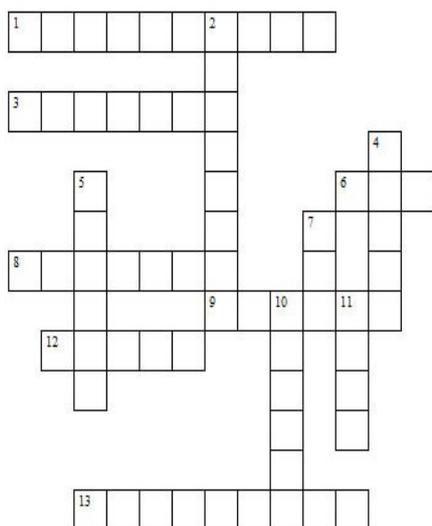


Summer Luvng...

Most kittens are born in the warmer months. One female cat can produce up to 30 kittens a year if not de-sexed. An entire tom cat can contribute to many more litters in a breeding season. As you can see from the illustration below cat populations can quickly get out of hand. Cats reproduce at a much faster rate than the rate good homes become available for them. It is your responsibility as a cat owner to prevent the multiplication of an already overpopulated species and get your cat neutered from 6 months of age. The one off cost of getting your cat de-sexed is very reasonable compared to the hassle you will be dealing with if you have an entire cat to look after. Un-neutered cats are more likely to spray, roam, get into fights and produce litters and litters of kittens. If you have a cat that has not yet been de-sexed give us a ring to bk it in



Animals Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Big animal that has one horn
- 3 This animal has a very long neck
- 6 Man's best friend
- 8 Lives in the cold and waddles
- 9 Slow moving and has a shell
- 12 Striped animal that looks like a horse
- 13 Can swim under water and walk on land and has a big bite

DOWN

- 2 This animal has a long trunk
- 4 This animal likes to eat carrots and sugar cubes
- 5 This animal loves bananas
- 7 Some say this animal has nine lives
- 10 Has big ears and likes to hop
- 11 King of the jungle

Compost & Dogs—A Toxic Mix

Ellie is a loveable 3 year old chocolate Labrador. She came in after hours one evening as her owners had noticed she had started shaking and was getting progressively worse. By the time Ellie came into the clinic she was tremoring all over, panting and was very staggy. She was getting very hot. As her signs had come on very suddenly it looked suspicious of a toxicity. Her owners could not think of any baits or chemicals she could have gotten into but did remember that she had eaten some compost from their worm farm earlier in the day.



The main aims with any toxicity is to decontaminate (get rid of the toxin), give an antidote if available and to support the body to help it recover. It was too late to make Ellie vomit up the compost as it would have passed out of the stomach by the time she was seen and there is no antidote for compost poisoning so supportive therapy was started immediately.

We placed an IV catheter and took a blood sample from Ellie to assess if any organ damage had already occurred. She was given a muscle relaxant into the vein to help to stop the tremors then she was started on IV fluids. Ellie was given another injection of the muscle relaxant a short time later as she was still tremoring then she was put into a quiet cage in a cool environment to help her body to cool down. She relaxed for a short while but then started tremoring again so Ellie was heavily sedated to help keep her relaxed through the night.

The next morning Ellie was still sedated but was just starting to wake up and tremor again. We gave Ellie another dose of sedative to keep her body relaxed through the day. She required lots of nursing care to make sure she did not get pressure sores while she was sedated, her eyes were kept lubricated (as the body does not produce much tears when sedated), her bladder was expressed, she was kept warm (as the body cannot regulate its temperature when sedated) and her vital signs were monitored. At the end of that day Ellie was just starting to wake up again out of her sedation and the tremoring was starting up again too so she was re-sedated for another night.

We found Ellie standing up in her cage the following morning. She had chewed her drip out overnight and was a bit unsteady on her feet but happy to be awake and not shaking again. Throughout the day she continued to improve and by then end of the day she was completely normal. We kept Ellie in for one more night just to make sure she was stable then she went home again the next day. Ellie's blood results came back normal.

Compost and mouldy food can contain tremorgenicmycotoxins. If ingested these can affect the nervous system, producing body tremors which can last from hours to days. Once the tremors start the body heats up to dangerous temperatures if left untreated. Fortunately the prognosis is good following early and aggressive treatment. Do not feed mouldy food to your pets and make sure your compost bin is well enclosed to prevent this happening to your dog.

Puppy Preschool

Did you know the time you put in to your puppy early in life has the greatest impact on its behaviour long term. The socialisation period of dogs occurs primarily from 8-16 weeks of age and it is critical that your pup gets lots of social interaction and training during this period.

Give your puppy the best start in becoming a good canine citizen by enrolling in our puppy preschool. Classes are suitable for puppies 8-14 weeks of age who have had at least one vaccination. These are held on Thursday evenings and run for 4 weeks. This is a great way to socialise your pup and start some basic training. Contact us to find out more.



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