

DOWNES

Veterinary Surgeons

Tummy upsets in pets

The need to fast your pet

If your pet is suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting it may be necessary to withhold all food for one or two days. The more severe the intestinal disturbance, the longer the period the food must be withheld – and you must not be tempted to give small treats or snacks either!

Make sure your pet has access to fresh, clean water throughout the fasting period. Clean its water and feed bowls thoroughly to ensure no bacteria are present.

The correct diet after the fast

After your pet has fasted as the vet has advised, you can **gradually** return it to its previous feeding habits.

At first, feed it small amounts, but frequently (3 to 6 times daily).

Ask one of our vets what would be best to feed your pet at this time – as this will vary depending upon the illness your pet was suffering from.

Highly digestible diets designed to settle your pet's digestion may be prescribed.

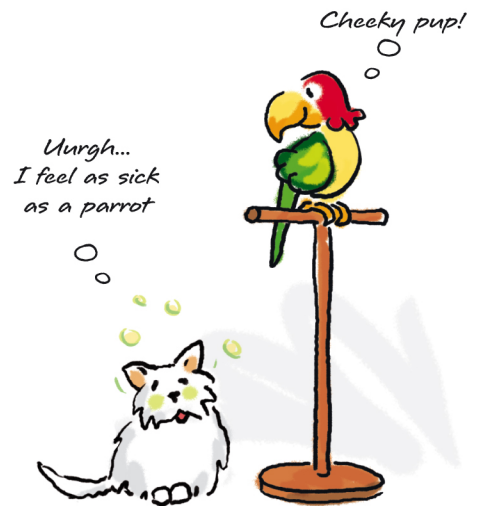
You should avoid foods that contain wheat, bran, lactose (milk sugar) and high levels of sucrose (table sugar). Do not give your pet bones, snacks or table scraps which might irritate the gut and prolong the illness.

If you **MUST** give your pet treats – make sure they are healthy ones, like little bits of freshly cooked chicken. But do not overdo it!

Keep an eye on your pet

Watch your pet's behaviour at home. Is it quiet or listless? Does it slope off to hide when it is outside? Monitor the faeces for frequency, diarrhoea, blood, mucus or foreign material.

If the condition worsens or does not improve as expected, contact us.



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If you're not sure how to do it – phone us up – we'll talk you through it!