

## **TREATMENT OF VOMITING AND DIARRHOEA**

If your pet has developed mild diarrhoea without vomiting and is quite well in himself, he still wants to eat, to play and go out for walks, and no blood has been seen in the diarrhoea, then the condition may clear up simply by following the fasting instructions shown below.

If, however your pet is "off colour", has blood in the diarrhoea or is vomiting, then he should be taken to the veterinary surgery.

### **FASTING.**

Your pet should be prevented from eating. i.e. all foods and milk.

For animals over 12 weeks old fast for at least 36 hours.

For animals under 12 weeks old fast for at least 18 hours.

These liquids may be given -

a) Plain tap water.

b) "Glutalyte" or a human or home made electrolyte solution.

Glutalyte is the preferred solution, it consists of an exact mixture of electrolytes. Its main action is in combating dehydration, but it also helps to replace essential salts that are lost in the vomit/diarrhoea.

If your pet is vomiting, then even these liquids must be given in restricted quantities. You may have to give as little as one teaspoon every 15 minutes in order to avoid further vomiting.

Vomiting is less likely to be induced by fluids that are given at room temperature. If the vomiting continues, then it would be best to give no liquids at all for at least 2 hours and then try again with small quantities at body temperature.

Some pets dislike the taste of the electrolyte. Try them with plain water, but always use electrolyte if they are too ill to drink by themselves.

Try and give it into the cheek pouch with a spoon or a syringe.

### **RECOMMENCE FEEDING**

If at the end of the fasting period, the vomiting and diarrhoea have stopped, then feeding can be restarted.

The best food may be that which your pet is normally used to, but the veterinary surgeon may advise you to feed a special proprietary bland diet with added nutrients.

Day 1- 1/3 normal quantity of food divided into 4 small meals.

Day 2 - 1/2 normal quantity of food divided into 3 small meals.

Day 3- 3/4 normal quantity of food divided into 2 meals.

Day 4 - Normal quantity of food divided into 2 meals.

Day 5 - Normal feeding routine.

Make any dietary changes slowly by mixing different foods together, altering the relative proportions daily, over at least a week. Liquids can be given ad lib at this stage, but no milk should be offered.