



**Chronic gastric/intestinal bloating**

Recommended Diagnostics

History:

Identify what type of food the dog eats, how many times the dog eats each day, and how fast the dog eats his food

Identify any use of opioids, anticholinergics, or  $\beta$  agonists, which may cause hypomotility

Question about urination and defecation habits (straining, incontinence, etc)

- Exam
  - \*Thorough neurological exam, pupil size, perineal reflexes, etc.
- Radiographs abdominal 2 view
  - \*Identify any obstructive patterns, masses, foreign material
  - \*Identify which organs are dilated
- CBC/Chem
  - \*Electrolyte disturbances such as hypo/hypercalcemia, hypokalemia, and hyper/hypomagnesemia may decrease motility
  - \*Severe hypoalbuminemia and intestinal wall edema may cause ileus
  - \*Hypoadrenocorticism, uremia, and DM may cause ileus
- Barium series
- GI panel
  - o Dysbiosis may cause ileus and is suggested by decreased cobalamin and/or increased/decreased folate
  - o EPI may cause altered motility
    - If values are low normal or low, use Pancreazyme or Viokase
- Endoscopy
- Biopsy

### Recommended Treatments

- Fortiflora or Proviabio or Visbiome probiotics
  - o Dysbiosis may cause hypomotility
- Simethicone (Gas-x)
- Increase number of meals fed (3-4 small meals/day)
- Take a 5-10 minute walk post-meals
- If the dog is eating too fast, purchase a dog bowl with “shapes” inside of it to slow down eating and reduce aerophagia
- Change food to hydrolyzed or easily digestible protein
  - o May also try low-fat diet
  - o May also try low-residue diet
  - o Consider canned food
- Cisapride (works on distal esophagus in cats, stomach, small intestine, and colon) or another pro-motility agent
  - o Erythromycin (stomach and small intestine)
  - o Ranitidine (stomach and colon)
  - o Nizatidine (stomach and colon)
  - o Metoclopramide (proximal small intestine and colon)
  - o Bethanechol
- Antibiotics for dysbiosis (tylosin or metronidazole or tetracycline)
- Fecal transplant(s) (see MSU-CVM website)

