

## Diarrhea

When to contact a veterinarian:

- the puppy's temperature goes above 103 degrees
- vomiting accompanies the diarrhea for more than half a day
- quite a bit of blood appears in the stool
- the diarrhea persists more than two days
- the puppy cannot keep water down
- the puppy is markedly depressed

Tier 1: if diarrhea is mild (stools are loose or watery but no blood) and pup is acting normally, the pup should be fasted for 8-12 hours depending on the severity and the puppy's age (8 hour fast for puppies under 4 months; 12 hour fast for puppies over 4 months - **START COUNTING THE TIME FROM WHEN THE DIARRHEA OCCURS, NOT THE LAST MEAL FED.**). It is ok to continue to give water normally during this time. If diarrhea stops and the puppy is acting normally, then a bland diet (see below) can be started after the fasting period. If stools improve, the bland diet should be continued until they are normal and then the regular diet should be slowly re-introduced over a 2-3 day period.

If stools continue to be loose after the initial fast and introduction of bland diet, raisers should contact the leader for more instructions.

If the puppy has recurring bouts of diarrhea with days or weeks of normal stool in between, the leader should be contacted and consult with the CFR. The leader may recommend taking the puppy to the vet. The veterinarian may want to do more diagnostic tests after examining the pup. The raiser should take a fresh stool sample to the visit as the vet may want to analyze it. If anything more than routine tests or treatments are recommended, the puppy raiser should contact GDB Vet Care Coordinator first for more instructions.

### Vet visit:

Tier 2: if diarrhea is severe (large amounts, frequent episodes, or bloody) the raiser should contact their leader for more advice before starting the bland diet protocol. If vomiting is also present or dog is acting very lethargic or depressed, take the dog to the vet immediately. Contact the leader and the GDB vet clinic when at the hospital and the pup is being examined.