

~ A BIT ABOUT PUPPY POOP ~

Or, perhaps, "More than you may want to know about puppy poop"!

Often, knowledge will keep you from panicking – or you will be aware if there really may be a serious health problem... Just as with humans, your puppy's waste *will* vary a bit from day to day – this is normal, to some extent. As puppies mature and are able to consume a larger amount of bone, their stools will become firmer, less smelly, and will "poof" disappear within a short amount of time! "Normal" is a wide variety of textures, colors, and even sizes!

Types of poop to follow!

"SOLID": For the puppy caretakers, this is by far the "favorite" poop, and if *you* are the one cleaning up your puppy messes, this will be *your* favorite too! Small piles, easy to pick up after, little-to-no smell! Most often, this is what your raw-fed dog will produce when given the right meat-bone-organ ratio! ☺

"CRUMBLY & WHITE": This is also a "favorite" for us humans, though slightly less thrilling for our dogs. Unless it happens to be an accident inside the house, you really don't need to clean this type of poop up as it will soon blow away, as in "Poof"!

This is a sign the previous meal or meals had a higher than normal bone content; a meal of ribs would be a good example. Unless your dog is straining miserably (sign of constipation), this isn't a worry and is even *good*, on occasion, as it helps "express", or clean out, their anal glands! (Ewww, you really didn't want to know that, did you?!)

"MUCOUS": During this transition, and even as adults, you will occasionally notice "mucous" surrounding their stool. Under most circumstances, this is normal and nothing to be concerned about, unless there is a large amount. Mucous is produced to protect their bowels if there happens to be a bit of irritation, or if something isn't passing through easily.

"DIARRHEA" or "GLOPPY": Sometimes too much chicken or turkey skin and fat will produce runny stools. Some puppies have a more difficult time assimilating large amounts of skin and fat; trim most of the skin and fat, then slowly work your puppy back up to a normal amount. Too much organ meat can also cause loose stools, otherwise known as "diarrhea", or "dire-rear". Organ meats such as liver; kidney; intestines; green tripe; etc are all good in moderation – but "look out" if you feed whole meals of just organ meat!

*Generally, if your puppy has diarrhea but is bright-eyed, playful, and eating well, you don't have any need to be concerned. *Chronic diarrhea, without apparent illness, can be a sign you need to change something more than just skin or fat. As with humans, sometimes certain foods just don't "set" as well in our digestive systems.

We have found that venison tends to make our dog's stools goopy and occasionally even "watery"! We either mix with another meat, or make sure to give plenty of bone with each venison meal.

- ➔ If your puppy clearly doesn't feel well, or there is a really foul, putrid smell, blood, or watery diarrhea accompanied by vomiting or fever then you need to consult your veterinarian *immediately*.

"SHARDS of BONE IN THE POOP": Believe it or not, this is somewhat common as well,

though *normally* it would be found in an older dog, still transitioning from kibble to raw foods. Usually, this is not something to worry about, but take a mental note anyway.

Generally the stomach acids make short work of bones, but if you see this regularly or if it is accompanied by trace amounts of blood, you will need to review your feeding practices and also your dog's eating habits.

- ➔ Regardless of whether you see bone in your dog's poop: If you find blackish/dark blood in your dog's stool, ask yourself if you have fed organ meats heavily - perhaps an all liver or heart meal?! That can look scary coming out the other end! If not, and you see black/dark blood, it could be a sign that something serious is going on. Your dog may have swallowed a sharp stick, chunk of plastic, or, yes, even an unusually sharp bone.
- ➔ If this were accompanied by pale gums, slow capillary refill, your dog acting strangely or unusually tired or disoriented, your dog must be seen *immediately!*

"A BIT ABOUT VOMITING"

How could we possibly ignore the subject of *vomiting* after our detailed scoop on poop?!

In spite of our human experiences, vomiting can actually be a *good* thing if you are a dog! Dogs are equipped with a wonderful safety mechanism, which is terrific - considering some of the things they scrounge up to eat. If something is not settling well, be it horse manure, a half rotted carcass they found along the river, or nice fresh chicken bones from a meal they ate 15 minutes before, they can toss it up at will!

This has been coined "return to sender" or "urka gurka" - as that is almost exactly the sound they make before they throw up! ☺ If you happen to hear this, get your dog off the new living room carpet immediately! (Ha)

Regardless, don't be alarmed. Generally, they do not vomit very often! If your puppy happens to "urk up" something really nasty, you are welcome to bag it and throw it in the garbage, but usually, with a case of vomited meat and bones, the pup will have tossed it up only to reposition the mess, thus usually eating it again right away.

Yes, vomiting is gross by our standards, but we must remember this is a normal process - and does not happen because they are being fed raw foods; dogs do this occasionally with kibble as well.

If you have any questions, please let us know ~

Happy feeding!

Have a tail-waggin' good day!

Dan, Jacque & tribe

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