



# Flatulence in dogs: Annoyance or sign of GI illness?

Persistence in finding the cause and crafting a solution can help keep owners content and your canine patients in their homes.

By Ed Kane, PhD

**B**eing the owner of both a boxer and a bulldog with flatulence, Claudia Kirk, DVM, DACVN, DACVIM, a professor at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, can relate to the challenges excess flatus provides to pet owners. Episodes of flatus make living in close quarters with pets less than enjoyable, especially when the foul odor is enough to clear a room. Flatus, a by-

product of bacterial fermentation, often results from dietary causes—highly fermentable fiber, indigestible carbohydrates, dietary indiscretions or a sudden diet change, Kirk says. Plus, some breeds seem to be predisposed to the condition, with boxers, bulldogs, Boston terriers and other brachycephalic breeds among the most notorious.



# Ixnay on the IBD: An update on handling patients with chronic enteropathies

When it comes to chronic gastrointestinal cases, it's time to throw out your outdated terms and diagnoses.

Calling all chronic enteropathies! Wait, are you calling all your chronic gastrointestinal (GI) cases inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD, without doing a histopath of the small intestine because the owner won't let you biopsy?

STOP IT. Fetch dvm360 speaker Craig Ruaux, BVSc (Hons), PhD, MACVSc, DACVIM-SA, says the term "inflammatory bowel disease" is outdated. Even in the cost-conscious world of private practice, there are new, more rational ways to approach your chronic enteropathy patients than, "Let's just pull out the pred and see what happens" that provide a better standard of care and won't break the bank.

## Add an "I" for idiopathic

When veterinary professionals discuss chronic enteropathies, the term IBD is

thrown around quite a bit. But Dr. Ruaux thinks IBD is markedly overdiagnosed in chronic gastrointestinal cases and is being used as a catch-all term for any time the small intestine is inflamed. There are a lot of diseases outside of IBD that can cause small intestinal inflammation, he says, and the underlying pathology is very different than true IBD.

When it comes to IBD, idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease (IIBD) is a more accurate term, says Dr. Ruaux. IIBD is a diagnosis of exclusion. It implies you've done a complete workup, including a minimum database, a fecal flotation and GI panel, and acquisition of biopsy samples of the intestines. If not, your diagnosis is chronic enteropathy of unknown origin. Only diagnose something to the level with which you can describe it, Dr. Ruaux says.



# A quick guide to gastric acid suppression in dogs and cats

How you can counteract the corrosive action of elevated gastric acid in your veterinary patients and when preventive use is indicated. By Mindy Valcarcel, Editor, Medicine Channel Director

The same drugs you may reach for yourself to relieve the gastric effects of too much stress can be used in your veterinary patients. Here's some guidance on acid suppressant usage given by Katie Tolbert, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine, during a recent Fetch dvm360 conference.

First, skip the antacids, which aren't as effective as decreasing gastric acid for a prolonged period. Instead go for acid suppressants. Two types are generally used in veterinary patients:

- Proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs) such as omeprazole, pantoprazole and esomeprazole.
- Histamine type-2 receptor antagonists (H2RAs) such as famotidine and ranitidine.