

# DOGS TRUST HOPE PROJECT



## Common Health Problems in Dogs

**Please note:** The following information is only intended as a guide. You should always contact your vet for advice if you are worried about your dog's health. Do not give your dog any medication intended for humans.

All dogs will become unwell at some point in their lives. It's important to keep a close eye on your dog so that you notice if his behaviour changes, which may be a sign of him feeling unwell or having a problem with his health.

**Some of the most common signs of health problems in dogs are:**

### **Bad breath & dental problems**

A build-up of tartar can cause bad breath in dogs so try and brush your dog's teeth regularly using special dog toothpaste. If your dog seems like he is struggling to eat his food or is showing signs of discomfort in his mouth, this could be a sign of a problem with his teeth. Contact your vet for advice.

### **Scratching his ears or shaking his head**

If your dog is shaking his head or scratching his ears, check for irritation or discharge as your dog may have an ear infection. Visit your vet for advice and treatment.

### **Coughing**

If your dog has a persistent cough, it could be an indication of kennel cough or a more serious condition. Visit your vet for treatment.

### **Scotting or chewing at his rear**

This could be a sign of worms so make sure your dog is wormed regularly. This could also be a sign of an anal gland problem so visit your vet for advice.

### **Increased water intake**

If you have not changed your dog's diet and the weather/temperature is still the same, it would be helpful to check with your vet that everything is okay. But remember that your dog will probably drink more on hot and sunny days.

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## **Sore or itchy skin**

Make sure your dog is treated for fleas regularly. Minor skin irritation can be common in certain breeds of dog and can be treated with various options, including antiseptic skin creams or lotions. It's important to visit your vet for diagnosis and treatment.

## **Sticky, sore or red eyes**

If your dog has sticky or sore eyes, or if there is a discharge, you may need to visit a vet for a proper diagnosis as this can be a sign of an eye infection or other eye problem.

## **Stiff joints & difficulty standing**

If your dog is having difficulties on his walks or afterwards when standing or sitting, and if he seems to have stiff joints, this could be a sign of arthritis. Arthritis mainly affects older dogs but can affect dogs of all ages. Your vet can offer advice on managing your dog's arthritis, which may include daily medication.

## **Upset stomach**

If your dog has an upset stomach, starve him for 24 hours, allowing only water to drink. If he is still sick on just water, or has diarrhoea that has not cleared up after 24 hours, contact your vet. You shouldn't allow your dog to scavenge or eat scraps. Make any changes to his diet gradually.

**It's important to always have the contact details of your vet to hand in case of an emergency.** Make sure their telephone number is saved in your mobile phone and make a note of their details below.

**Name & address of your veterinary practice:**

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**Contact Number for your Veterinary Practice:** \_\_\_\_\_