



IS MY DOG SICK?

Determining if your dog is unwell or needs to visit the vet is a common task. There are numerous indications that your dog may be sick and where you should seek assistance from your vet.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR

▶ Gums

- Gums should be pink in colour
- Pale gums can be a sign of severe illness, especially if your dog is also lethargic or weak – see your vet urgently.
- Discoloured and/or inflamed gums are not healthy – see your vet for advice.

▶ Changes in your dog's behavior

- As the owner, you are the best person to assess whether your dog is acting different
E.g. If your dog is quieter, less active or sleeping more than normal

▶ Change in eating

- Not eating, or finishing their meal, or eating slower than usual can indicate a problem
- Refusal to eat harder food such as bones or dry food can indicate dental disease that needs assessment

▶ Vomiting

- Can cause dehydration and also indicates an underlying medical problem
- If this occurs for longer than a couple of episodes, or your dog is very quiet, it may require veterinary attention

▶ Change in sleeping patterns.

▶ Sudden loss of toilet training or incontinence

- This can highlight kidney or bladder problems, endocrine disease or neurological issues.

More over...

▶ **Diarrhoea or constipation**

- Persistent diarrhoea or constipation for longer than 1 – 2 days should be assessed by your vet

▶ **Drinking or urinating more than usual**

▶ **Lameness (or injury)**

▶ **Eyes**

- If they become closed, red, or start weeping, or your dog is pawing at or trying to rub their eyes, then it is advisable to see a vet

▶ **Continual scratching, itching, rubbing, or licking any part of their body**



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