



UNLEASHED

Volume 32 Issue 5 A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club May 2021

2021 Meeting/Event Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, May 5
Home of Jan Eichensehr
6:30 p.m.
Pizza for dinner

Meeting/Event Dates

May 5
June 2
July 7
September 1
October 6
November 3
December TBA

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CHECK OUT CENTRAL OHIO LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB
ON FACEBOOK
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/575516432535825/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/575516432535825/)

**May 5, 2021 is the date of
the next COLRC Meeting at
the home of Jan
Eichensehr.**

Pizza is on the menu.

**Order of business includes
tying up loose ends for our
joint MVLRC & COLRC
Specialty, May 14, 15 & 16.**

Please plan to attend!



GI UPSET IN CATS AND DOGS

by Beth Mueller

CONSISTENT DIET MAY HELP PREVENT THE PROBLEM

The two most common symptoms seen in a small animal general practice are vomiting and diarrhea, referred to as “GI [gastrointestinal] upset.” These symptoms can range from mild to more severe and affect dogs and cats. Dr. Drew Sullivan, the medical director at the University of Illinois Medical District Veterinary Clinic in Chicago, sees these cases every day.

What Happened?

“There are numerous things that can cause vomiting and diarrhea in our pets. These include dietary indiscretion, stress, parasites, metabolic disease, and even cancer,” Dr. Sullivan explains.

The most common cause of GI upset among all ages of dogs is dietary indiscretion. That’s a fancy way of saying that the dog has eaten something unusual, such as garbage, foreign objects, human food scraps, or rabbit poop. Dogs are more likely than cats to eat something they shouldn’t. If something the dog ate is causing the GI upset, the problem is often difficult to diagnose unless the owner saw what the pet ate.

In kittens and puppies with GI upset, intestinal parasites are common and likely the cause.

“It is possible that stress can lead to GI signs,” Dr. Sullivan says. Stress is more likely to cause diarrhea, but vomiting can also be seen. It just depends on the animal.

Vomiting and diarrhea seen in an older patient could indicate cancer. The veterinarian will consider age and health history when deciding what tests to run to help determine a diagnosis.

Seek Help

It is important to take a sick pet to the veterinarian, but it can be hard to know exactly how soon the pet should be seen. Dr. Sullivan explains that “a single episode of vomit is typically not too concerning if the pet is acting normal otherwise.” How the pet is acting and whether they want to eat provides important evidence for the severity of the problem. Dr. Sullivan becomes more concerned when the pet refuses to eat.

“In general, vomiting can indicate more concern for an emergency. Diarrhea is rarely a true emergency,” Dr. Sullivan says. If the pet shows interest in eating and doesn’t vomit, then the pet should contact their regular veterinarian. Diarrhea alone is not typically a need for an emergency clinic visit. If the regular veterinarian doesn’t have appointments available and believes the pet should be seen, the client may be directed to an ER to avoid delaying care.

“A pet will need to be seen immediately at the ER if they are not keeping any food or water down,” Dr. Sullivan explains, “In addition, if they are retching but unable to vomit, this is a true emergency.” Retching without producing vomit suggests that the animal could have a blockage in the GI tract and must be seen right away by a veterinarian.

In cats, if they are trying to vomit and also unable to urinate, this could indicate a urinary obstruction. “These are very life-threatening cases and must be seen right away by a veterinarian,” Dr. Sullivan reiterates.

Dr. Sullivan advises, “Whenever a pet owner is concerned about signs they are seeing in their pet, I recommend having the pet evaluated by a veterinarian right away, whether at their regular veterinarian or an emergency clinic. It is better to be safe and have the pet seen than to wait and have a potential bad outcome.”

Diagnosis and Treatment

“In order to diagnose the cause of the symptoms, a number of different tests may be recommended,” Dr. Sullivan says. “I always warn owners that these tests may not provide the answer, but at least will narrow down the options.”

Some of the more common tests recommended are a fecal float to screen for intestinal parasites, bloodwork screening for metabolic conditions, and x-rays to look for foreign material. These diagnostics give the veterinarian a better idea of what might be going on with the internal organ function of the animal.

Treatment for GI upset depends on the cause itself, but supportive care is often given to help the pet feel better quickly. Supportive care for most pets includes administering fluids under the skin, medications to decrease nausea and diarrhea, and implementation of a probiotic and bland diet.

“In most cases, vomiting will resolve after a single dose of medication, and diarrhea will likely improve within 48 hours of supportive care,” Dr. Sullivan explains. Owner’s should keep their veterinarian updated with how the pet is doing and call if symptoms worsen.

“If the pet doesn’t improve with supportive care, then I suggest more advanced diagnostics,” Dr. Sullivan says. Options include abdominal ultrasound, a GI panel to look for malabsorption or maldigestion within the small intestines, or a GI scope to collect biopsies of the intestines. Some of these options may require referral to another specialty veterinarian that has the knowledge and equipment to perform these tests. This can become a long process of trial and error, if the case is complex.

Prevention

Although some causes of GI upset cannot be prevented, owners can take steps to reduce the chance it will occur. “Feed a strict diet of only dog or cat food with occasional treats. Keep the diet consistent, avoid giving table scraps, and pet-proof the house to prevent the animal from getting into garbage or chewing up things they shouldn’t,” advises Dr. Sullivan.

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Three Specialties...



**Miami Valley
Labrador Retriever
Club, Inc.**

FRI. MAY 14 2021 JUDGES:

DOGS & INTERSEX -
Lenore Hamilton (Blackwing)

BITCHES -
Linda Maffett (Sunnydaze)

SWEEPSTAKES -
Dawn Nacey (Empress)

Show Chair:
Gerardo Saldana
419/358-0428
zinfndellabs@gmail.com

SAT. MAY 15 2021 JUDGES:

DOGS & INTERSEX -
Linda Maffett (Sunnydaze)

BITCHES -
Lenore Hamilton (Blackwing)

SWEEPSTAKES -
Jennifer Hoffmann (Hoffmann)

Show Secretary:
Nina Fetter
567/289-3890
executivedogshows@yahoo.com

New Location:
Lima Kennel Club Show Grounds
Lima, Ohio

Back to Back!!!

**Central Ohio Labrador
Retriever Club Speciality
with MVLRC**

JUDGE: MIKE HAMILTON (BLACKWING)
SWEEPS: JENNY MONEGHAN (CHESTNUT)

SAVE THE DATE!

**05.16.
2021***

*PENDING AKC APPROVAL

**LIMA KENNEL CLUB
SHOW GROUNDS
- LIMA, OHIO**

SHOW CHAIR:
Cora Fleming
937/564-1385

SHOW SECRETARY:
Nina Fetter
567/289-3890
executivedogshows@yahoo.com



May Flowers



General COLRC Information



The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the Labrador community and the dog fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

Please address or email all articles, announcements, comments and suggestions to newsletter@colrc.com. Unleashed is published ten to twelve times per year. Closing for each issue is the 20th day of the month prior to publication.

Dues are \$25 annually for a single membership and \$40 for a joint membership. Business cards will be placed on the COLRC website for the year at a cost of \$50 for members and non-members.

Club members who wish to utilize the Litter Listing Column of the newsletter and website will be required to pay \$50 per litter listing unless they have worked at two of our three club events during the course of the year.

Meetings General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

OFFICERS

President.....	Sally Bell	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Treasurer.....	Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Secretary.....	Brian Tipton	(Term expires Dec 2021)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership.....	Linda Bednarski
Newsletter.....	Christine Nickerson
Puppy Match.....	Linda Bednarski
Show Chair.....	Cora Fleming
Eye Clinic.....	Jennifer Stotts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Gerhan	(Term expires Dec 2023)
Christine Kofron	(Term expires Dec 2023)
Jennifer Stotts	(Term expires Dec 2023)
Cora Fleming	(Term expires Dec 2023)