

Nutritional and Clinical Assessments

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL AND LARGE BOWEL DIARRHEA

Factor	Small Bowel*	Large Bowel*
Feces		
Volume	Normal to greatly increased	Normal to decreased
Consistency	Very watery to semi-formed (Typical fecal score 6 or 7)	Semi-formed, gelatinous (Typical fecal score 4 or 5)
Blood	If present, dark or black, tarry-looking	If present, bright red, fresh-looking
Mucus	Uncommon	Frequent
Color	Variable	Normal
Fat	May be present	Absent
Defecation		
Tenesmus (straining)	Absent	Present
Urgency	Normal to slightly increased	Markedly increased
Frequency	Normal to increased	Markedly increased
Related signs		
Vomiting	May be present	Uncommon
Flatulence	May be present	Uncommon
Appetite	Normal, decreased or increased	Usually normal
Weight loss	Common	Uncommon
* In some cases, both the small and large intestines are affected, and clinical signs will vary.		

References

Tams, T. R. (1996). Gastrointestinal symptoms. In T. R. Tams (Ed.), *Handbook of small animal gastroenterology* (pp. 44–45). Saunders.

Hall, E. J., & Day, M. J. (2017). Diseases of the small intestine. In S. J. Ettinger, E. C. Feldman, & E. Côté (Eds.), *Textbook of veterinary internal medicine: Diseases of the dog and the cat* (8th ed., p. 3669). Elsevier.