



Anal Sac Disease

What is anal sac disease?

The anal sacs are located on each side of the anus, just under the skin. They are exposed to the environment via tiny passageways, or ducts. Glands within the anal sacs produce a dark, foul-smelling substance. The sacs are normally emptied with a bowel movement. Their purpose is unknown, and pets do not need them.

Categories of anal sac disease:

1. Impaction: The anal sac fluid is abnormally thick and cannot be emptied from the sacs.
2. Infection: Bacteria within the anal sac produce a yellow or bloody pus. Infection could also occur in other areas, such as the eyes, ears, tonsils and/or skin.
3. Abscessation: This occurs as a result of infection. An abscess is a hot, tender swelling near the anus that could rupture and discharge pus and blood.

Signs of anal sac disease:

- "Scooting" (dragging the anus on the floor)
- Excessive licking under the tail
- Tenderness near the tail or anus
- Bloody or sticky drainage from the anal area

Treatment:

- Manual expression (squeezing) of the sac contents
- Flushing the sacs and administering antibiotics
- Surgical drainage or removal of the sacs

Instructions:

Follow any instructions our veterinarian has checked.

- Keep your pet off of furniture and carpeting while the sacs are draining.
- Make an appointment for a recheck in _____ days.
- Use the antibiotics as directed. Begin treatment _____.
- Use a buster collar if your pet excessively licks or irritates the area.
- Offer food and water, but reduce portion sizes by half to prevent your pet from getting an upset stomach after sedation.