# Antech Canine GI Diagnostic Algorithm

Diagnostic and therapeutic approach to a dog with chronic gastrointestinal signs

Diagnostics

## Dog with chronic gastrointestinal (GI) signs

HISTORY OR PHYSICAL EXAM FINDINGS OF

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss

INCLUDES DOGS WITH

- GI signs for at least 14 - 21 days
- Intermittent history of GI signs of at least 14 - 21 days
- Documented weight loss suggesting chronicity even if other clinical signs are more acute

### Small bowel • Large bowel Mixed bowel diarrhea

- Perform Fecal O&P +/- Giardia antigen test if not previously performed
- Consider GI PCR panel if not previously performed
- Consider dietary trial with therapeutic gastrointestinal diet especially if symptoms are more recent or mild
- Consider abdominal imaging

### Vomiting • Abdominal pain Abnormal abdominal palpation Significant weight loss

- Perform abdominal imaging:
  - Survey abdominal radiographs +/- barium upper GI series if foreign body or obstruction suspected
  - Abdominal ultrasound

+/-

### CBC • Chemistry panel • Urinalysis

- Perform if vomiting, weight loss, or lack of response to symptomatic or previous therapy for diarrhea
- +/- Precision PSL (cPLI) if vomiting or abdominal pain
- +/- TLI, B12, folate if exocrine pancreatic insufficiency is suspected

**No evidence of extra-intestinal disease**

**Evidence of extra-intestinal disease**

- Resting cortisol or ACTH stimulation test if Addison's disease suspected
- Manage kidney, liver, endocrine diseases, etc.
- Manage pancreatitis
- Manage exocrine pancreatic insufficiency

**Treat as indicated**

## Antech Canine CE-IBD Assay

**Consistent with chronic enteropathy**

**Not consistent with chronic enteropathy**

### Is patient stable?

- Still eating
- No hypoalbuminemia
- No protacted vomiting
- No significant weight loss
- No segmental thickening or mass on abdominal ultrasound if performed

### If patient is not stable

- Pursue above diagnostics if not already performed

### If patient is stable

- Dietary trial with therapeutic gliadin-free diet if anti-gliadin IgA results are intermediate or high and retest with canine chronic enteropathy assay in 2 to 4 weeks to assess response to diet change
- Dietary trial with therapeutic gastrointestinal diet if anti-gliadin IgA results are negative

**Yes**

**No**

### Are anti-gliadin IgA results intermediate or high?

**Yes**

**No**

- Perform abdominal ultrasound if not already done
- Perform Precision PSL (cPLI), TLI, cobalamin, and folate testing if not already done
- Obtain intestinal biopsies:
  - Via endoscopy if diffuse disease or hypoalbuminemia present
  - Via surgery if segmental thickening or mass effects

### Perform dietary trial with

- Gliadin-free novel antigen diet
- Hydrolyzed diet

### Perform dietary trial with

- Any novel antigen diet
- Hydrolyzed diet

### Treat as indicated

- Novel antigen, hydrolyzed, or low fat diet
- Cobalamin supplementation
- Immunosuppressive therapy
- Prebiotics, probiotics

**Retest Antech Canine CE-IBD Assay in 2 to 4 weeks to monitor response to treatment**

If no response to dietary trial alone, pursue additional diagnostics including abdominal ultrasound if not performed +/- intestinal biopsies before initiating medication such as corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive therapy