



Allies in Internal Medicine (AIM)

Mobile Veterinary IM Specialists

Bringing Insight Onsite

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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PATIENTS FOR COLONOSCOPY:

Adequate patient preparation is essential to performing a proper colonoscopy as residual fecal material in the colon will prevent complete visualization of the mucosal surface.

Please help prepare your patients for this procedure by:

1. Ensuring that the patient is fasted (no food) for 72 hours prior to the colonoscopy appointment with the internal medicine specialist. Water/clear broth is allowed until 3 hours before appointment time. **Please review with the owner.**
2. Please have the dog or cat patient seen at your clinic 1 & 2 days before the colonoscopy appointment for administration of multiple warm water enemas as outlined below.
3. If you are comfortable in the technique of oro-gastric intubation in dogs and have the equipment necessary please administer an oral gastric lavage solution to a medium to large dog in addition to the multiple enemas. Instructions for this are outlined on the next page. Administer this the day before the colonoscopy is to be performed.

Administration of warm water enemas to prepare dogs & cats for colonoscopy:

1. Water that is lukewarm to the skin of your inner wrist should be used. Do not use water that is too warm
2. Total volume of water per enema should be 20 ml/kg (large dogs can take more: 30 ml/kg).
3. Please give a minimum of 3 enemas (at least 2 hours apart) to the dog or cat at your clinic both 1 & 2 days before the colonoscopy is to be performed at your clinic by Dr. Mirkovic. Give the last enema 2 hours before the colonoscopy the day the procedure is to be performed.
4. For cats and small dogs a 60 cc syringe containing the water for the enema is attached to a soft red rubber catheter which is well lubricated. The catheter should be advanced carefully as far as it will easily pass without resistance into the colon. It should never be forced. The enema water is slowly injected slowly through the red rubber catheter into the colon over 30 seconds. If a large amount of water or fecal material is immediately expelled then immediately repeat the enema. Do not force it.
5. Dogs should be walked outdoors immediately after each enema.
6. Phosphate or soapy enemas should not be used as they are irritating to the colon and phosphate (fleet) enemas can be fatal to cats due to electrolyte alterations.

Administration of an oral gastric lavage solution to medium to large dogs for preparation for colonoscopy:

1. Only perform this technique if you are very comfortable in the technique of oro-gastric intubation in dogs and how to verify correct tube placement prior to administration of lavage solution. Aspiration pneumonia or GI perforation can occur if incorrectly performed.
2. Colyte or Golytely are the recommended solutions (contain polyethylene glycol as the main non-absorbed solute). These are isosmotic solutions that result in a diarrhea with no net absorption or secretion of electrolytes, bicarbonate or water resulting in superior preparation for colonoscopy to multiple enemas alone. Available in local pharmacies. Obtain 1 jug of Golyte or Colyte by prescription.
3. The day before the appointment for colonoscopy have the dog visit your office for administration of 1 or 2 doses (2 is ideal) or oral lavage solution about 2-3 hours apart.
4. Reconstitute bottle of lavage solution as per bottle instructions with lukewarm water.
5. Dose of each oral lavage is 25 ml/kg of body weight.
6. Use a gastric stomach tube 9.5 mm outer diameter for dogs more than 18 kg. Pre-measure length of tube needed to reach stomach from approximately the canine tooth to the last rib of the dog by holding it next to the animal. Mark this location on the tube with white tape to indicate that it should have reached the stomach.
7. Insert a roll of 2-inch wide adhesive white tape or commercial canine mouth speculum into the dog's mouth and hold the jaw closed around it.
8. Lubricate the tip of the stomach tube well with KY jelly.
9. Pass the lubricated tube through the speculum gently to the pre-marked point on the tube.
10. Check proper placement of the tube by palpating the cervical region. In medium to large dogs you will feel two firm tubular structures (trachea & gastric tube in the esophagus).
11. Administer 5ml of sterile saline through the stomach tube and observe for coughing. This is the most reliable method to determine if the tube is properly placed and the only method that is effective in small dogs.
12. Administer the oral lavage solution volume through the tube (plastic funnel is useful for this works).
13. Before removing the tube from the dog, seal the end of tube with your thumb to prevent leakage of tube contents back into esophagus. Withdraw tube in one motion.
14. Advise owners to walk their dog more often than normal for next 12 hours.

***** Please also administer enemas to dogs getting oral lavage solutions as outlined above.**