

So Your Dog Puked Up Your Homework – Why?



Laney Freehill, Matthew Bermudez, and Will Theilacker

Learning Objectives

- Describe what vomiting is
- Explain the difference between vomiting and regurgitation
- Describe reasons why vomiting occurs
- Identify contents of vomit by color
- Describe how vomiting is treated

So What is Vomiting?

- Vomiting is an animals way of emptying their stomach
 - Could be related to a problem or a single occurrence
- Dogs can vomit naturally or we can cause them to vomit
- Different than regurgitation
 - Regurgitation is the release of food from the esophagus, so it never made it to the stomach to begin digestion

What is it made of?

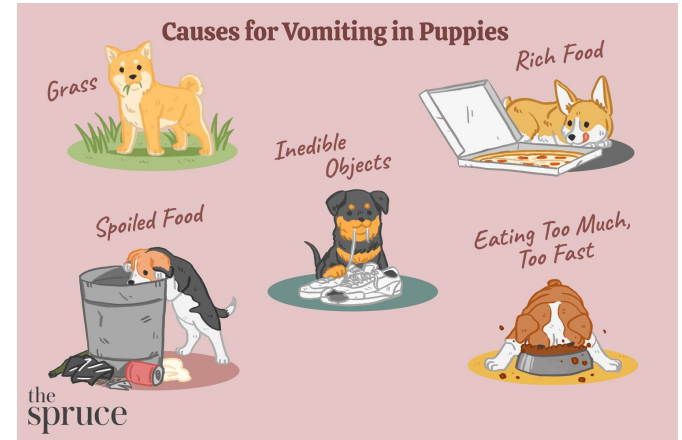
- Half-digested food or liquid that is mixed with stomach juices
- There can be many other things in the vomit that can tell us what is going on with your dog



Causes

Vomiting can be caused by a variety of things:

- Minor upset
- Parasites
- Allergies
- bacterial/viral infections
- Inflammatory conditions
- Obstructions from foreign bodies
- Organ dysfunction
- Cancer



How Do Dogs Vomit?

- Vomiting is a full body workout!
 - It involves the stomach, ab muscles, and the diaphragm
- The vomiting center in the brain controls all vomiting
- Stimulants like dopamine cause vomiting



Is vomiting always a negative thing?

- No! Sometimes we want to induce vomiting in dogs to get rid of something they're not supposed to eat
 - Only let a veterinarian induce vomiting
- Vomiting can be a symptom of a larger problem, or it could be to eliminate a foreign substance
- Sometimes we even make dogs vomit to help them feel better



My Dog Ate His Vomit–WHY??

- It was a normal behavior in their wild wolf ancestors
- Using their great sense of smell, they know their yummy food is in there and want to eat it again!



What is it telling you?

- Look at the color and what makes up the vomit
 - Is there partially digested food?
 - Is there only liquid?
- Not a consistent way to tell you if your dog should go to the vet, but can be a helpful tool
- If its dark, red, or black go to the vet ASAP!!

DOG VOMIT COLOR GUIDE



How Can Black Mean Blood?

- Blood in the vomit can be in two forms: Digested and Undigested
- Digested blood becomes black in color
- Undigested blood keeps its normal red color

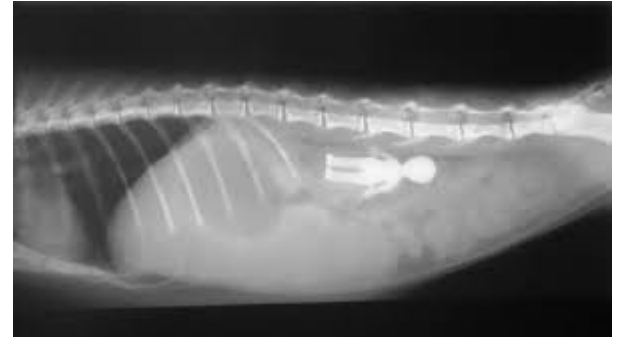
How to Fix Your Sick Dog

- Try fasting your dog for 24 hours, but give them water
- Take your dog to a veterinarian if they continue to vomit
 - Some try to use hydrogen peroxide at home to get their dog to throw up, however this can actually end up causing more damage
 - Veterinarians can administer special drugs that can safely induce vomiting
- If there is another problem that caused vomiting, veterinarians can help diagnose and treat your dog



How Can Veterinarians Help?

- They can find the cause of the vomiting
 - Run blood and urine tests
 - X-rays
 - Take biopsies of intestines
 - Exploratory surgery
- Treat the vomiting
 - Medications
 - Diet changes
 - Fluid therapy



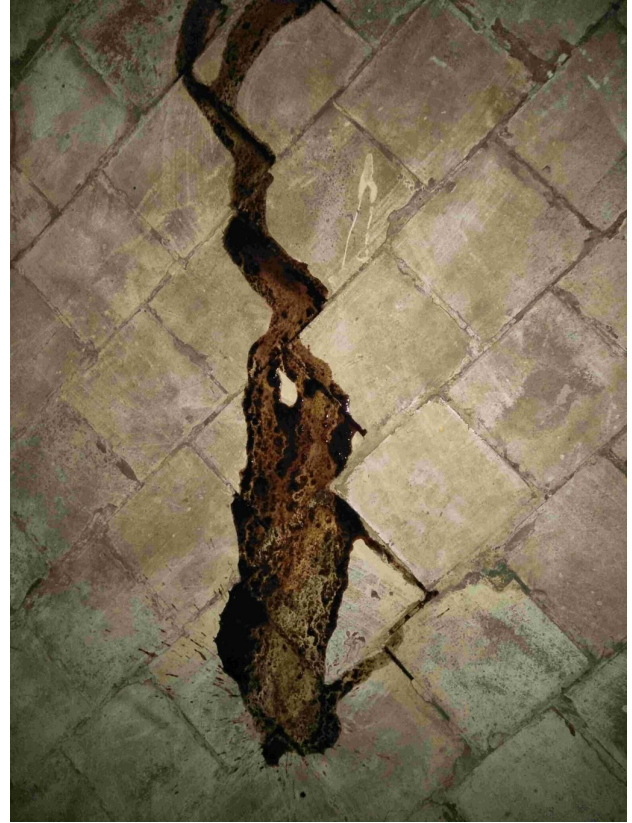
Vomit Activity!!

What Does This
Color Indicate?



Undigested blood! Likely from the esophagus or upper stomach

What Does This
Color Indicate?



Digested blood! Likely from the upper GI tract

What Does This
Color Indicate?



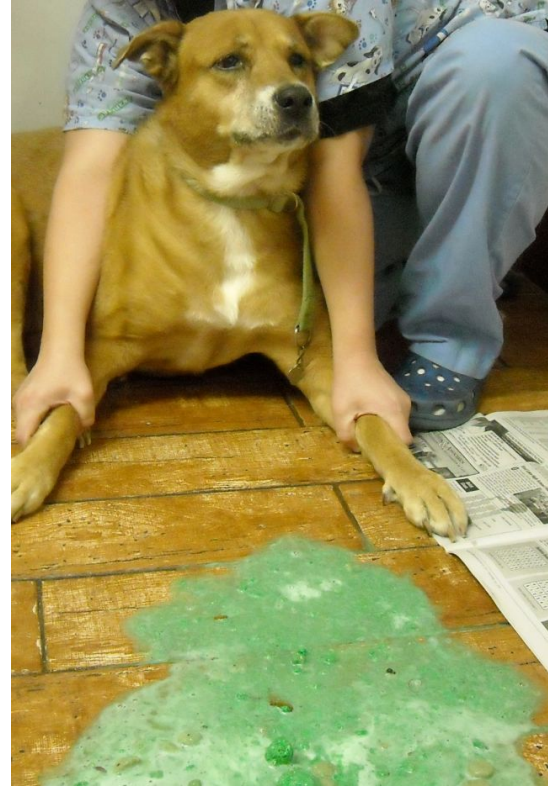
An empty stomach! The color of bile is somewhat yellow

What Does This
Color Indicate?



Grass!

What Does This
Color Indicate?



Something dyed green! In this case rat poison.

What Does This Vomit Indicate?



Trick question! This is not vomit; it is regurgitated food.