



ANIMAL ANTICS

Note for Pet Owners:

Pet Patrol 365 provides this information for educational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your veterinarian if your pet is ill, as only they can correctly advise on the diagnosis and the recommended treatment for your pet.

ANAL GLANDS

These are two glands located either side of the anus. They usually contain a foul-smelling matter which is expelled at urination and/or defecation and which acts as a territory marker. A secondary function of these glands is to act as the body's dustbins in that they are a means of collecting and discharging waste matter from the system.

Many dogs have problems with the anal glands - they cause discomfort which causes the dog to rub its rear-end on the ground or floor ("tobogganing or scooting").

The usual management involves manual expression of the contents of the glands, which usually has to be done by a veterinary surgeon. Sometimes these glands may even develop an abscess which may burst discharging blood and pus.

Anal gland problems are usually blamed on lack of roughage (fibre) in the diet but in fact the problem tends to be seen most in dogs fed on indigestible foods which produce bulky faeces anyway.

In fact, if the anal glands fill up and cause trouble it is possibly due to low-quality diets which create an excess of waste matter in the system. It is also possible that anal gland disorder can be due to dietary intolerance.

For most dogs the anal glands (also know as anal sacs) will empty a small amount of anal gland fluid each time the dog toilets. But sometimes the anal glands do not empty naturally or do not empty enough and this can lead to the glands filling up and becoming uncomfortable, leaking at inconvenient times or even becoming impacted and infected if left untreated.

Possible Solutions to Aid 'Natural' Anal Gland Emptying

- Check your dog's stools for size and firmness regularly
- Review your dogs diet
- Reduce your dog's weight if he is over weight
- Check your dog's anal glands regularly

If your dog is showing signs of discomfort or secreting a "fishy" smell, discuss this with your veterinary practice.

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