

## Common Medicine Conditions and Signs

### What are the most common medicine conditions we see and treat?

- Gastrointestinal diseases – chronic and acute vomiting, chronic and acute diarrhoea, removal of foreign body, inflammatory bowel disease, dietary allergies/intolerances, infections
- Respiratory diseases – coughing, sneezing, breathing difficulty, chronic bronchitis/asthma, removal of foreign body, pneumonia
- Liver diseases – portosystemic shunts, acute and chronic hepatitis, bacterial cholangiohepatitis
- Immune mediated diseases – immune mediated polyarthritis, immune mediated haemolytic anaemia, immune mediated thrombocytopenia

### What are the common signs to look out for as a referring vet?

- Gastrointestinal diseases – vomiting, diarrhoea, anorexia, lethargy and weight loss
- Respiratory diseases – coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, increased respiratory rate, laboured breathing
- Liver – vomiting, lethargy, anorexia, jaundice
- Immune mediated diseases – polyarthritis (lameness, pain, pyrexia), immune mediated anaemia (lethargy, pallor, tachycardia), immune mediated thrombocytopenia (signs of excessive haemorrhage - petechiation/bruising).

### What are the common symptoms your clients (pet owners) should look out for?

- Gastrointestinal – vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, reduced appetite, weight loss
- Respiratory diseases – coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, laboured breathing, fast breathing
- Liver – vomiting, lethargy, sleeping more, anorexia, weight loss, jaundice (yellow gums, eyes and skin)



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- Immune mediated diseases – polyarthritis (unwilling to walk, lameness on multiple limbs, fever, pain), immune mediated anaemia and thrombocytopenia (lethargy, sleeping more, rapid breathing, pale gums, high heart rate, signs of bleeding/bruising).

### When should you consider referring such a case?

It is always beneficial to refer any of these signs sooner rather than later if possible and prior to starting glucocorticoids if possible. Of course, when a patient is complex it benefits to refer them so we can do further tests and examinations, especially if the patient isn't responding to standard treatment.

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