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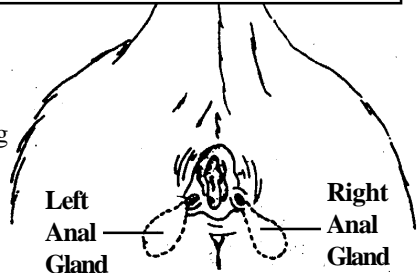
Date

Caring for your pet

ANAL GLAND PROBLEMS

◆ The Normal Healthy Anal Gland

All dogs and cats have anal glands. These scent glands are positioned deep in the muscle of the anus, and produce a powerful unpleasant-smelling fluid. This fluid normally empties out onto the motion as it is passed leaving a distinctive smell on the ground, marking the animal's territory. It is this scent that dogs and cats are examining when they sniff the ground and each other's rear end!.



◆ Full Anal Glands

If the glands become overfull they become uncomfortable. Dogs and cats respond to this irritation by either rubbing the bottom on the floor, or chewing at the flanks or feet. Sometimes the only sign is an unpleasant smell.

◆ Infected anal glands

If the glands are full for some time, they often become infected. The vet can detect this by examining the fluid produced. Once infected they may abscess and burst, or the infection may spread through the body in the blood stream causing problems elsewhere such as skin disease, ear infections, tonsilitis etc.

PREVENTING ANAL GLAND PROBLEMS

- At the first sign of any irritation around the bottom or tailbase let the vet empty the anal glands to prevent a build up of infection.
- Feed a quality complete dry food such as **Hill's "Science Plan"**, or **Hills r/d high fibre low calorie diet if your pet is overweight**. The well-formed motion produced helps the glands to empty properly.
- Avoid feeding canned food, low-quality food, fresh meats or scraps, all of which are likely to produce soft or small motions which will not empty the anal glands effectively.

TREATMENT OF ANAL GLAND INFECTION

- Infected Anal Glands are treated by a course of antibiotics.
- Regular emptying of the anal glands by the vet. Weekly while infection is present.
- Greatly increase the fibre in the diet by feeding **Hill's "R/D"** or **"W/D"**. Or by adding **"Peridale Granules"** daily to the food. Increased fibre produces a bulky motion that will empty the anal glands more efficiently.
- Surgical removal of the anal glands** is necessary if the infection persists or recurs regularly. Anal glands are not important to a pet's way of life. Once removed they can't harbour infection and never need emptying again.