

Why do my puppies get diarrhea during travel? By asking that question and exploring the reasons, breeders can do a better job of finding ways to prevent this aggravating problem. Diarrhea is the number three reason for vet visits, so its important for breeders to make sure that they avoid diarrhea if at all possible.

Travel diarrhea is also referred to as stress diarrhea or routine diarrhea. This means that the cause is simply the dog's intestinal reaction to a change in their environment. Canines have a simple and short digestive tract and with any change in routine they are quite susceptible to the "runs".

The actual cause of this type of diarrhea is an intestinal imbalance between what is commonly referred to as "good and bad" bacteria. A balance of both is essential to break the food down so that the nutrients can be absorbed through the intestinal wall, as well as to push along what's left to be eliminated. The good bacteria get spent in the digestive process and need to be replaced daily to maintain optimum GI balance. Once the "bad bacteria" get the upper hand, they breed quickly and can lead to diarrhea.

There are numerous diarrhea remedies available and recommended by vets, breeders and pet owners. One type is the digestive aide, incorporating beneficial bacteria to normalize the digestive system. There is a difference between a true digestive aide and many diarrhea medications. Medications will put the brakes on the diarrhea for a short time, but won't do anything to correct the underlying problem. In fact, some medications or diarrhea products will actually contribute to a cycle of diarrhea because they interfere with the digestive process. A Digestive Aide will get to the root of the problem, helping the body to get back into balance, so that diarrhea is taken care of safely, naturally and long-term. Probiotics have long been used as a digestive aide. Prebiotics are emerging as an even more effective and economical type of digestive aide and they also have the benefit of being much easier to administer.

Another nice thing about using natural digestive aides, is that you won't have to withhold food, change foods or be concerned about contraindications with any other medications you might be giving. Many treatment recommendations for common diarrhea are to withhold food. This sometimes works but can be difficult to manage when working with several puppies or when shipping pups.

Every breeder dreads receiving calls from unhappy customers with a new puppy with diarrhea. It's not always easy to convince customers that their puppy isn't really sick, it just has a case of travel jitters. And unfortunately, if puppies do get into a cycle of diarrhea, it can lead to more serious problems if not corrected quickly, especially in small breeds. As the saying goes, prevention is the best cure. Preventing the problem saves breeders a lot both in time and money, as well as keeps new customers happy. Understanding that puppies will be susceptible to travel diarrhea helps breeders be prepared by stabilizing the digestive system in advance and take the right steps to prevent this difficulty.