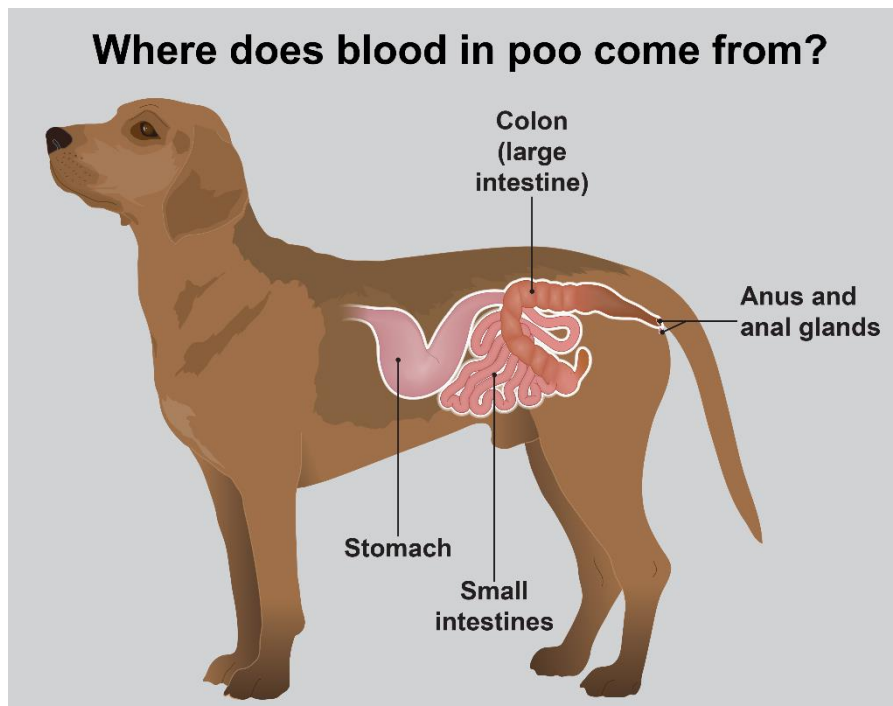


## Blood in your dogs stools

### Overview

- Seeing blood in your dog's stool (poo) can be worrying because most people associate it with serious illness.
- Blood in poo is always something to have checked by your vet, but don't panic, there are lots of possible causes ranging from very minor to more serious.
- It can be very helpful to take a poo sample or a photograph of your dog's stool to show your vet.



*Blood in your dog's poo might be coming from their stomach, intestines, colon, bottom or anal glands.*

### What does blood in a dog's stool look like?

Blood in your dog's poo can range from noticeable bright red streaks, to a subtle black tinge throughout the whole poo (see

photographs). You may even see blood dripping from your dog's bottom after they have been for a poo.



*Fresh blood in a dog's poo (left)*

*Black poo - digested blood (right)*

## Why is there blood in my dog's poo?

Some of the conditions that cause blood in poo are listed below:

- Parvo (parvovirus) or another virus
- Anal gland problems
- Colitis (inflammation of the large intestine)
- Haemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE)
- An upset stomach from eating something they shouldn't have, or something that is toxic
- Worms or another parasite
- Stomach ulcer (this can sometimes be a side effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)
- Bacterial gut infection (e.g. Salmonella)
- A rectal polyp (a harmless mass sitting just inside the bum)
- Anal furunculosis
- Constipation
- Food allergies
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Gut blockage (foreign body)

- Mass around the anus (bum)
- Mass in the stomach or guts
- Bleeding / clotting disorders

## Other symptoms to look out for

It's important to monitor your dog for other symptoms such as:

- Vomiting
- Pale gums
- Low energy (lethargy)
- Eating less than usual
- Drinking less or more than usual
- Bruising anywhere on their body
- Being unsteady on their feet

## When to contact your vet

Book an appointment with your vet ASAP if you see blood in your dog's poo. They will need to rule out or serious causes such as parvovirus or a gut blockage.

It can be helpful to collect a sample of your dog's poo show to your vet (or even a photograph if a sample isn't possible).

Take a look at our video: 'HOW TO: Collect a poo sample from your dog' [www.pdsa.org.uk/bloodinpoo](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/bloodinpoo)

**You know your dog best. If they don't have the symptoms listed above but you are still concerned it's always best to contact your vet.**

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