

Health Research Subcommittee.

The following articles on **PARVOVIRUS AND CORONAVIRUS** and **ANAL GLANDS** have been provided to the Club through Sandra Parkes

We are grateful to Mr Garrett for writing these two articles specifically for the Club members

ANAL GLANDS



Dogs have 2 scent glands called anal glands or anal sacs. These glands are situated at the dogs anal opening in the 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions. The glands produce a scent that is supposed to deposit onto the dogs faeces so that it can mark its territory (therefore the smell has to be worse than dog poo!!). In times of fear or stress the dog can release the foul smelling scent to scare off an enemy (a bit like a skunk).

Some dogs have problems with their anal glands. Sometimes the gland can become blocked and impacted. As the glands become full they start to cause discomfort. The dog may chew or lick at its bottom or flank, scooting (dragging bottom along the ground) is a common symptom of anal gland problems, sometimes pain while going to the toilet may occur. If the blockage is not relieved an abscess may occur. An anal gland abscess is a very painful condition with swelling and infection within the gland. The abscess will often burst leaving a hole next to the anus and discharging blood and pus

With blocked anal glands it can be a relatively simple matter of squeezing the glands to relieve the blockage, but an anal gland infection or abscess may need surgical drainage and flushing or a long course of antibiotics.

If a dog has multiple anal gland abscesses or infections the anal glands can be surgically removed, however if you notice the symptoms early enough and take your dog to the vet to have the glands expressed infections are usually prevented.

Some dogs seem to have the opposite problem: their anal glands leak and leave a foul smelling scent wherever the dog has sat. If the anal glands are full to overflowing then expressing them may stop the problem, however sometimes the glands are just always leaky and removal may be considered.

Lots of dogs get blocked anal glands that need squeezing every few months but few dogs get infections or need their anal glands removed surgically.

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