

Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO)

In this condition, there is a dramatic increase in the number of bacteria in the small intestine, and this interferes with normal absorption of nutrients. The result is chronic intermittent diarrhea, and weight loss or failure to gain weight. There is no straightforward test to diagnose SIBO. Increased serum folate or reduced cobalamin provide indirect support for the diagnosis, once pancreatic insufficiency has been ruled out.

<http://www.upei.ca/~cidd/Diseases/GI%20disorders/small%20intestinal%20bacterial%20overgrowth.htm>



Hondo, owned by Karen- before and after stabilization



Spirit, owned by Pat



For help and support:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/k9-EPIGLOBAL/>

For more information on EPI:

<http://www.globalspan.net/epi.htm>



Partner, owned by Ann, is a service dog

In Memory of All EPI Dogs



Denise's Yani

EPI

Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

What it is

EPI is the inability of the exocrine part of the pancreas to secrete digestive enzymes needed to digest food. An EPI dog or cat can literally starve to death despite eating voracious amounts of food. Once diagnosed, the vast majority of dogs and cats can be managed with the proper treatment.



Gamma, owned by Cathy S – in '07 and @ 11years old in 2012



The Signs

- Loss of weight
- “Cow pie” stools
- Diarrhea
- Polyphagia (Ravenous appetite)
- Voluminous & frequent stools
- Greasy or oily looking stools
- Gas
- Dry, dull or brittle coat
- Coprophagia (Eating of stools)
- Pica (Eating inappropriate objects)

Diagnosis

The only diagnostically effective test for EPI is the cTLI (dogs) or the fTLI (cats). The test is available from most veterinary labs including Texas A&M University Veterinary Gastrointestinal Laboratory, a major research lab in the study of GI disorders. Values below 2.5µg/L are diagnostic for EPI.

The blood for the test must be drawn after a 12-hour fast. It is recommended to have the dog's B12 (cobalamin) and folate tested at the same time as the TLI.

<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/gilab/assays/TLI.shtml>



Maestro, owned by Maureen



EPI is not breed specific. It is now showing up in all breeds. Every dog is at risk! It used to be thought a German Shepherd disease, but this is not the case anymore.



Management

Porcine replacement enzymes

- ✚ Powder or tablets (pancreatin)
- ✚ Enteric coated (Creon)
- ✚ Raw bovine or porcine pancreas

Replacement enzymes are necessary for every meal.

No food should be given without enzymes. This is very important.

B-12

If the cobalamin is low, this will need to be supplemented. We recommend the TAMU protocol in the beginning.

Some are having success with Wonder Labs Trinfac B Intrinsic Factor

<http://www.wonderlabs.com/itemleft.php?itemnum=6881>

or Metagenics Intrinsic B12/Folate™

<http://www.metagenics.com/products/a-z-products-list/Intrinsic-B12-Folate>



Ziggy, owned by Nadia, does tracking and agility



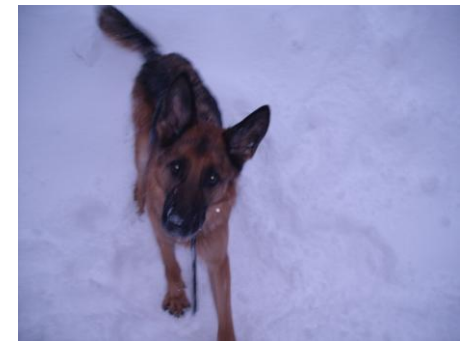
SIBO

The treatment for SIBO (also called Antibiotic Responsive Diarrhea -ARD) is a minimum of 6 weeks of antibiotics – either Tylosin or Metronidazole is preferred.

<http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/avhc/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=724731&pageID=1&sk=&date>

Food

- ✚ Grain free kibble
- ✚ Raw or BARF
- ✚ Home cooked



Teddy, owned by Kathy M @ 72 lbs & @ 111 lbs



Low B-12

Dogs with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency will commonly present with subnormal serum cobalamin concentrations. Therapy with bovine pancreatic enzyme extracts is not sufficient to restore cobalamin absorption in dogs with EPI, as intrinsic factor appears to be species specific. Failure to absorb cobalamin in dogs with EPI may be due to all three potential causes of low serum cobalamin. Pancreatic secretion of intrinsic factor is reduced or absent, secondary bacterial overgrowth of the intestine is common, and the mucosa may be compromised by the presence of excessive bacterial numbers and toxic metabolites. Dogs with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency should be considered at high risk for the development of cobalamin deficiency. As clinical signs of cobalamin deficiency include chronic wasting or failure to thrive, malaise, and gastrointestinal signs such as diarrhea, serum cobalamin concentration should be measured in any dog with poor response to enzyme replacement therapy for EPI.

It should be pointed out that in rare cases cobalamin supplementation fails to increase serum cobalamin concentration for reasons that are not currently understood. In these cases another formulation of cobalamin, such as hydroxocobalamin, might be effective. <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/gilab/research/cobalamin-information>

Regular B12 pills generally are not effective due to the absence of intrinsic factor.