

Anal Sac Disease in Dogs

If **dog** scooting across the room on his bottom, it could be a sign of **anal sac disease**.

Dogs have two small pouches on either side of their anus. They make a smelly, oily, brown fluid that dogs use to identify each other and mark their territory. It's why they often sniff each other's behinds.

Anal sac disease begins as an uncomfortable impaction and can progress to an infection or **abscess**.

Symptoms

- Scooting
- Licking or biting his rear end
- A bad smell
- Constipation or
- pain when pooping sitting

Stages of Anal Sac Disease

Normally, when a **dog** poops, the fluid in his anal sacs is squeezed out, too. It's when they aren't completely emptied that problems develop. The fluid inside can become so dry and thick that it plugs up the openings. This is called impaction.

Thankfully, impacted sacs are easy to treat. The glands can be gently emptied, or expressed, with your fingers. You may have to do this regularly, and to save a trip, the vet can show you how.

If **dog** repeatedly has impactions, the vet may suggest adding more fiber to his diet. This increases the size of his poop, which puts more pressure on the sacs to empty naturally.

If the dog doesn't have a problem, there is no need to empty the sacs.

Left untreated, the impaction will turn into an infection. Look for yellow or bloody **pus** oozing from the sacs. This painful condition can cause **dog** to act fearful or angry. The vet will wash out the sacs and give antibiotic ..

An untreated infection will develop into an abscess (a swollen, tender mass of puss) and could break open.

the vet will open and drain the abscess and usually prescribe antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Daily warm compresses can help, too.

If **dog** keeps having problems, the vet may want to remove anal sacs with surgery. It's a simple procedure, but can result in complications like fecal incontinence (when his poop leaks uncontrollably).

Prevention

Put dog on a healthy diet and make sure he gets plenty of [exercise](#). Small, obese dogs are at the highest risk of anal sac disease. Also, dog has problems with his anal sacs, have vet check them at every checkup