



Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis (HGE)

Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis is characterized by a sudden onset of vomiting, depression and profuse bloody diarrhea. This disease usually occurs in adult dogs and the cause is often never determined. A bacterial organism is suspected in some cases. It is not considered to be contagious from dog to dog or from dogs to people.

The diagnosis of HGE is based on history, physical examination, blood tests, fecal analysis and sometimes x-rays. The treatment for HGE includes hospitalization with the administration of large volumes of intravenous fluids, antibiotics and medication for nausea. Without this aggressive therapy, death from dehydration and shock can occur.

While the diagnosis of HGE is serious, most animals will recover if they receive appropriate care. Once the vomiting and diarrhea have subsided, oral medications and a bland diet can be introduced. The bland diet is continued even after the pet goes home.

In summary, hemorrhagic gastroenteritis is a serious disease that requires swift veterinary intervention early in the course of the disease to prevent death.