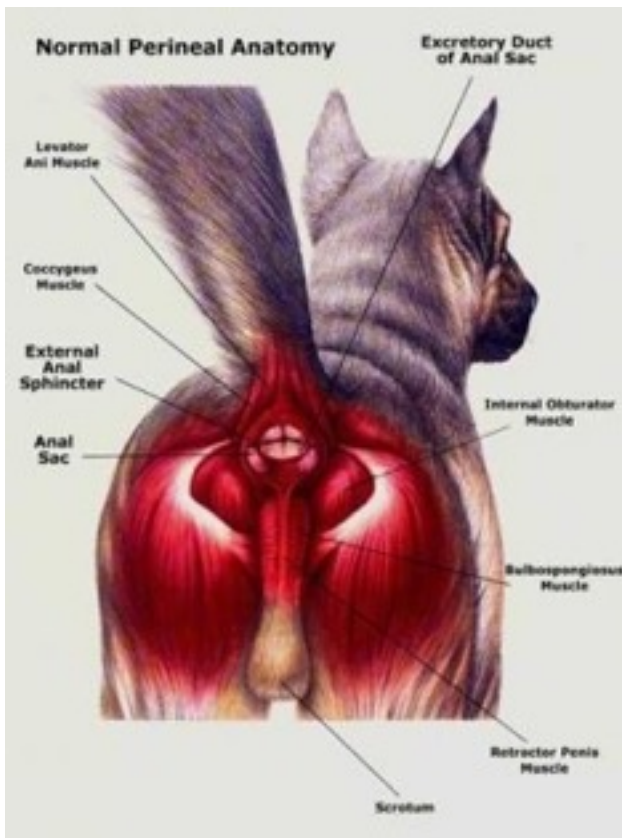




THE SCENARIO

It is 5pm on a hot summer's afternoon. You get home from work, grab the kids, the dog, favourite doggy toy, and head to the dog park. You greet your friends and let your furry friend off the lead and watch them scoot and scurry with much delight around the park with the other dogs. After catching up on some gossip you hear your child say, 'why is Rusty rubbing his bum along the ground mum?' Your cheeks turn a shade of red as you rush to stop your dog from embarrassing you further.



THE PROBLEM

The answer is anal gland impaction. If you have not already choked on your cup of tea reading this, your pet will really thank you if this issue is remedied. Dogs and cats have two sacs on either side of their inner anus that releases a fluid that gives a distinctive odour to their poo (you may have smelt this before). This occurs when the poo exerts pressure on the gland on the way through, releasing the fluid in the gland. Large dogs and cats are less likely to have this problem however; small breeds of dogs are very

susceptible. Technicalities aside, your pet will become infected in this area if they are not drained and abscess formation may result requiring costly antibiotics or even surgery. Your favourite furry friend will be very sore! Below are images of the area of concern (look for the anal sac) and the extent of impaction (abscess formation).



THE BEHAVIOUR

Dogs will drag or 'scoot' their backsides along the ground, lick the region regularly

(often when you are sitting trying to have dinner watching your favourite television show), or chase their tail. They are telling you that there is an irritating, painful, and red swelling inside their anus. Often symptoms associated are; fever, loss of appetite, and lethargy.

THE DIETARY CHANGES

Do not despair! You can help your dog yourself. Your dog needs more fibre enriched food in their diet. These methods may help prevent anal gland impaction;

- Use a quality dry food to provide the poo with better consistency that will keep your dog very happy. Talk to your vet at Vetcall for advice on what types.
- RAW bones only as cooked bones can splinter causing intestinal obstruction (more problems!)
- Vegetables such as: raw carrots and celery can be introduced even if they are thinking you are trying to turn them into a rabbit!
- Over the counter unflavoured fibre enriched 'Metamucil' can be added to wet food to aid in more volume and consistency of poo.
- Plenty of fresh water and they will thank you with a big and sloppy kiss!
- See our previous blogs for more information on the best foods to feed your dog

FIRST AID FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND IN THE CASE OF IMPACTION



If you suspect your dog has anal gland impaction, call your friendly vet at Vetcall as improper drainage can lead to further infection. Dr. Rebecca and her staff can provide

you with quality care for your pet and advice on preventative measures. Prompt action to drain the glands can save your pet from a painful experience. Prevention is ALWAYS better than cure, so give your dog or cats a more nutritious diet, clip long fur away from their anus, and check your dog for red irritation in this area

regularly to prevent a trip to the vet for an emergency, or even more embarrassing moments at the dog park.

Be kind to your pets, they have no voice to tell you what is wrong so keep an eye out for anal gland impaction...