

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



Dr. Kevin, Why does my dog eat his own feces? Is he missing something in his diet? Thank you, Kira.

Dear Kira, This isn't the most pleasant habit for your dog to have, but you aren't alone. It's not exactly known why dogs do this. Coprophagia (eating feces) can be normal for mothers with pups or even puppies themselves. Only if your dog has an underlying digestive condition is coprophagia considered abnormal. If your dog is already on a well balanced, good quality dog food with no other underlying disease, it may just be a part of their normal behavior that has been developed over the generations. There are a few ways to help prevent this behavior. The most obvious way is to clean up the feces immediately after they have a bowel movement. Other methods include adding various over-the-counter products to the food, or a small amount of Adolph's meat tenderizer. These may deter them from eating their feces. If they are eating the feces of one of the other dogs in the house, don't forget to add these products to their food as well. Training techniques can also be used to prevent this behavior. These are most beneficial while they are puppies. As with any behavioral problem, this may not be a quick and easy fix. You may also have to use more than one of the above mentioned techniques. Good luck Kira!

Submitted by: Dr. Kevin Schmidt



Dr. Douglas Schmidt
246-3611
www.pattonvethospital.com



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