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### **Boarding related Diarrhea...**

Dogs, just like humans, react to stress differently. Some are easy and happy-go-lucky and can eat anything or go anywhere and not care. Others however have set routines that must not vary. Then there is everything in between.

If your dog suffers from anxiety it is highly recommended to work with him to help alleviate his stress. It isn't comfortable for your dog to feel anxious. You can work with a trainer, research on your own and/or speak with your veterinarian for consult.

When it comes to boarding guests we see all level of tolerance and anxiety. The dogs that visibly show that they are anxious are the most helpful because we can work with them to calm them and help them to learn to trust us. The dogs who remain stoic can be a concern. We don't know to help them if they don't tell us.

There is always some risk when taking your pet anywhere that they may come in contact with bacteria, viral or parasite disease. While vaccines are the best method of disease control, they aren't always successful. Bordatella (kennel cough) for example is very similar to the human flu vaccine in that strains of the disease that may be present in a specific environment aren't necessarily the ones afforded protection by the vaccine. We do our best at Lonsdale Grove to provide the cleanest of buildings, yards, water and inside air.

It is a common problem that when a sick person is present in the work place, a child daycare, schools or even in hospitals, that others may contract their illness. In some cases, the sick person may not even feel sick or display usual symptoms but can still be contagious. The same holds true for dogs and boarding situations. Your dog may have just had a run in the park or even in your back yard and walked through some animal or bird feces. You take them to the groomer or boarding hotel and within a few days, sometimes shorter, they exhibit signs of infection i.e.: vomiting, diarrhea or general malaise and go off their food.

Diseases like Coccidia and Corona virus are spread easily and can lay dormant or asymptomatic until added stress is present. Giardia can be picked up in puddles, rivers, lakes or even the communal water bowl at your local pet store. Vaccines are best for prevention but they are not a total failsafe.

We work hard at Lonsdale Grove to keep our building, inside and out, clean and sanitized. Under the direction of the scientists and veterinarian at Virox Technologies, our cleaning procedures are among the best possible. We clean with Envirozyme and sanitize with Prevail. These same products are common among veterinary clinics. Our water comes directly from the aquifer and flows through a series of sediment filters, charcoal, ozone and UV light for sanitizing. The air in our building is actively filtered and sanitized through UV light. All dishes, utensils and toys are sanitized in the dishwasher. All beds are sanitized with Prevail. All blankets, towels, and cleaning cloths are washed in hot water with bleach. Prevail is not recommended in the washing machine.

It is natural for your dog to have a certain amount of stress when boarding. The travel to and from boarding can be a factor. Being away from their familiar home and humans can also cause stress. We encourage our guests to bring their own beds, crates, blankets toys etc. but if they don't we provide everything as a courtesy.

If you know that your dog suffers stress you can give him a probiotic supplement at home before he comes to board. If you tell us your pet suffers from stress diarrhea we can ensure that there is no change in food or treats. We can give them a probiotic supplement. If stool is a little loose we can feed steamed white rice and pureed pumpkin. You can use these same techniques and remedies if your dog has loose stool when they go home but if the loose stool turns to diarrhea for 2 days or more they really should see their veterinarian. You must be careful that they don't dehydrate.

For more information you may consult your veterinarian.

[http://viroxanimalhealth.com/index\\_ca.php?page=companion\\_concentrate](http://viroxanimalhealth.com/index_ca.php?page=companion_concentrate)

<https://www.proplanveterinarydiets.com/products/fortiflora-dog/>

<https://www.purina.ca/quality-nutritions/probiotics-pets/>