Canine Chronic Inflammatory Enteropathy (CIE)

Practical Diagnostic & Dietary Management Pathway

Definition of Abbreviations

1 SUSPECT

Persistent or recurrent GI signs ≥ 3 weeks

Clinical Signs

- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Weight loss
- Reduced appetite
- Poor BCS/MCS
- Ascites
- Peripheral oedema

Initial Assessment

- Full history + nutritional assessment
- Physical exam
- Body weight and BCS
- MCS
- CIBDAI or CCECAI
- Faecal quality evaluation

CIBDAI/CCECAI scores

CIE is a diagnosis of exclusion - rule out parasites & extra-intestinal disease first

2 RULE OUT EXTRA-GI CAUSES

Minimum Database: CBC | Biochemistry + electrolytes | Urinalysis | Faecal parasitology
Consider: Cobalamin (B12) | cPLI/TLI | Abdominal ultrasound

> Before diagnosing CIE confirm: Parasites excluded | Extra-intestinal disease excluded | Nutritional status assessed

3 INITIATE DIET TRIAL

Select the diet based on clinical presentation, diet history and any previous response to dietary intervention

SUGGESTIONS ON WHERE TO START:

General GI signs / mixed bowel signs
Highly digestible diet

Suspected food intolerance or allergy
Hydrolysed or novel protein diet

Predominant or isolated large bowel signs
Fibre-enriched diet

Fat intolerance
Fat-restricted diet

Select diet > Transition (7-10 days) > Exclusive feeding (2+ weeks) > Monitor weekly

Success requires clear pet owner communication to ensure they understand:
Food quantities | Number of meals | Treat allowance (no scraps) | Importance of diet | Chronic disease management

Adapted from the 2026 ACVIM Consensus Statement and the 2026 JSAP Dietary Management Recommendations. Developed by FECAVA in collaboration with Royal Canin.

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4 MONITOR

Assess regularly:

- Clinical signs
- Faecal score
- Body weight
- BCS
- MCS
- CIBDAI/CCECAI
- Quality of life
- Owner feedback

5 REASSESS

* Reduction in CIBDAI/CCECCAI, improvement in BCS, MCS and QoL

FULL REMISSION
75—100% improvement*

- Continue dietary intervention
- Maintain successful diet
- Reassess before changing

PARTIAL REMISSION
25—75% improvement*

- Continue diet +2 weeks
- Consider probiotics
- Consider fibre supplement
- Continue monitoring

NO REMISSION
<25% improvement*

- Confirm compliance
- Alternative diet strategy
- Additional diagnostics
- Introduce medical therapy

Consider advanced diagnostics, additional interventions and/or specialist input in case of:

- Severe weight loss
- Marked muscle wasting
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Suspicion of neoplasia
- Hypoalbuminaemia
- Persistent anorexia
- No response to at least 3 dietary trials
- Systemic disease suspected

KEY CLINICAL POINTS

Up to 90% of dogs with CIE are food-responsive, and many dogs maintain long-term clinical remission on dietary management alone

1. **Multiple diet trials** - At least 3 dietary trials should be performed before considering additional interventions
2. **Maintain what works -** Keep the most effective diet, even when adding therapies
3. **Individualise -** Tailor management to every patient's response, needs and preferences

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