

Indications for antimicrobials in acute diarrhoea



**Acute diarrhoea (<7 days)
+/- vomiting
+/- haemorrhagic**

Antimicrobials are no longer routinely indicated in canine AHDS. For cases that do fit the criteria, there is little evidence to support the use of metronidazole, and emerging evidence of potential harm.

Criteria justifying administration of antimicrobials

**Initial clinical finding of
hyperthermia > 39.5°C**

**Systemic signs of illness persisting after fluid resuscitation,
pain management, and symptomatic treatment e.g.**

- Depressed mental status
- Tachycardia (Small dogs >140 bpm, Large dogs >120 bpm)
- Hypotension

Lab values raising suspicion of SIRS / sepsis

- Severe neutrophilia
- Neutropenia ($<3000 \times 10^9/L$)
- Band neutrophils ($>2500 \times 10^9/L$)
- Hypoglycaemia ($<3.5 \text{ mmol/L}$)