

PYOMETRA IN DOGS

A Silent but Serious Threat

Pyometra is a life-threatening infection of the uterus that can develop in unspayed (entire) female dogs. Early recognition and treatment are essential and can save your dog's life.



! Pyometra is a life-threatening emergency. Delay in treatment can lead to severe illness, organ failure, or death.

1 WHAT IS PYOMETRA?

Pyometra is a serious infection of the uterus that causes pus to accumulate inside.

It occurs during or after heat and is caused by hormonal changes that allow bacteria to infect the uterus.

There are two types:

- Open pyometra – the cervix is open and discharge may be present.
- Closed pyometra – the cervix is closed and no discharge is seen.



5 WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you suspect pyometra:

- ✓ Contact your veterinarian immediately
- ✓ Transport your dog straight to the clinic
- ✓ Keep your dog calm
- ✓ Seek emergency treatment without delay

DO NOT

- ✗ Wait to see if signs improve
- ✗ Attempt home treatment
- ✗ Delay veterinary attention



2 DID YOU KNOW?

- Pyometra can occur in any unspayed female dog.
- It can develop in middle-aged or older dogs, but younger dogs can be affected too.
- Small breeds are at risk, not just large breeds.
- Early signs can be subtle.
- Prompt treatment significantly improves survival.



3 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Signs may include:

- ✓ Increased thirst and urination
- ✓ Reduced appetite
- ✓ Lethargy or weakness
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Abdominal swelling
- ✓ Vaginal discharge (open pyometra)
- ✓ Panting
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Fever (not always present)



! IMPORTANT

Signs can progress rapidly. If you notice any of these signs, seek veterinary care immediately.

4 WHO IS AT RISK?

Higher risk includes:

- Unspayed female dogs
- Dogs not bred from
- Middle-aged and older dogs (most common 5–10 years)
- Dogs that have had multiple heat cycles

Risk factors include:

- Repeated heat cycles
- Hormonal changes
- Bacterial infection
- Underlying illness



6 HOW IS PYOMETRA DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may perform:

- Physical examination
- Blood tests
- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Biochemistry profile
- Ultrasound examination
- Abdominal radiographs
- Urinalysis
- Hormone testing (if needed)

Ultrasound

Ultrasound is the most useful test to confirm pyometra.



7 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment depends on your dog's condition and your breeding plans.

Options may include:

- Stabilisation with IV fluids
- Antibiotics
- Pain relief
- Surgery (ovariohysterectomy) – removal of ovaries and uterus
- Hospitalisation and monitoring



SURGERY

Surgery is the definitive treatment and is recommended for most dogs.

8 RECOVERY & AFTERCARE

Recovery may involve:

- Hospitalisation
- Ongoing IV fluids
- Antibiotics
- Pain management
- Monitoring of vital signs and blood tests
- Rest and gradual return to normal activity



Most dogs recover well with prompt treatment and appropriate care.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

RUPTURED UTERUS
Pus can leak into the abdomen, causing life-threatening infection.

SEPSIS
Bacteria can enter the bloodstream causing severe illness.

DEATH
Without treatment, pyometra can be fatal.

ORGAN FAILURE
Unresolved pyometra can lead to kidney, liver, or multi-organ failure.

PREVENTION

Talk with your veterinarian about the best time to spay your dog.

Desexing is the only way to completely prevent pyometra.

Monitor your dog closely for signs of illness if she remains entire.

Regular veterinary health checks remain important.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Pyometra can develop after any heat cycle.
- Some dogs show no obvious signs early on.
- Regular veterinary check-ups are important.
- Early detection saves lives.
- Spaying is safe and strongly recommended.



! EVERY DOG COUNTS

If your unspayed female dog shows signs of illness, vomiting, lethargy, increased thirst or urination, or discharge, seek veterinary care immediately.

Every minute counts.
Early diagnosis, stabilisation, and treatment provide the best chance of survival.

