

Faecal Scoring Chart

Faecal consistency is mainly influenced by the amount of moisture in the stools and can be used to identify changes in intestinal health. Ideally, in a healthy animal, stools should be firm but not hard, pliable and segmented, and easy to pick up (score 2).

SCORE	SPECIMEN EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		• Very hard and dry • Often expelled as individual pellets • Requires much effort to expel from body • Leaves no residue on ground when picked up Consider whether a dietary change would help this pet, along with increased water intake.
IDEAL 2		• Firm, but not hard, pliable • Segmented in appearance • Little or no residue on ground when picked up Normal, no action needed.
3		• Log shaped, moist surface • Little or no visible segmentation • Leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up Normal, no action needed.
4		• Very moist and soggy • Log shaped • Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up Consider whether a dietary change would help this pet—carry out a nutritional assessment to plan next steps.
5		• Very moist but has a distinct shape • Present in piles rather than logs • Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up Consider whether a dietary change would help this pet—carry out a nutritional assessment to plan next steps.
6		• Has texture, but no defined shape • Present as piles or spots • Leaves residue on ground when picked up Consider whether a dietary change would help this pet—carry out a nutritional assessment to plan next steps.
7		• Has texture, but no defined shape • Present as piles or spots • Leaves residue on ground when picked up Consider whether a dietary change would help this pet—carry out a nutritional assessment to plan next steps.

Small vs. Large Bowel Diarrhea: Spotting the Difference

CHARACTERISTICS *	SMALL BOWEL	LARGE BOWEL
Defecation frequency	Normal to slightly increased	Markedly increased
Faecal volume	Normal to increased	Markedly decreased
Faecal quality	Very watery to semi-formed (typical score 6, 7)	Semi-formed, gelatinous (typical score 4, 5)
Frequent urges to defecate	Normal to slightly increased	Markedly increased
Tenesmus (Straining)	Absent	Present
Blood in faeces	Dark, old blood, tarry	Bright red, fresh-looking
Mucus in faeces	Rarely	Frequently
Fatty stool	Sometimes	No

*In some cases both small bowel and large bowel are affected and clinical signs will vary.

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