



## Coprophagia (Poop Eating)

### Check for Medical or Dietary Causes

If your dog is eating poop, the first thing to do is talk to your veterinarian, to make sure there is not a medical cause. Improving your dog's diet or changing his feeding schedule (from once a day to 2 or 3 smaller meals per day) may eliminate the problem.

If medical and dietary causes have been ruled out, then it is a behavioral issue.

### Do Not Let It Become A Habit

- If your dog is eliminating in the yard, clean up their stools immediately to remove the source of temptation.
- If your dog starts sniffing a feces, immediately call them away and reward them with a treat.

### If It Has Already Become A Habit

This can be a very difficult behavior to correct. It may require long-term vigilance on your part. Follow the above two steps consistently. You may also want to try the following.

- Give your dog has access to chew toys as an alternative.
- Try a food supplement or aversive (something added to the poop to make it taste unappealing to the dog). You will be able to find suggestions on-line. It is very important that you discuss this with your veterinarian before you try this step, to be sure that a suggested remedy is safe for your dog.

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The Austin Dog Alliance, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, provides the following programs:

- Rescue: Our foster parents provide a nurturing home environment for dogs.
- Youth Outreach: Dog-related educational programs for area schools and youth groups.
- Deaf Community: Uniquely tailored youth and adult dog training taught in sign language.
- Dog Training: We provide a wide variety of fun and educational dog training classes.
- Pet Therapy: We provide seminars, classes, evaluations, placement, and support to therapy teams in local schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

