

## **Eating Stool. .**

- *If your pet is not being fed a quality dog food, increase the quality and quantity of the dog food you feed your dog. Store-bought foods are not digested as fully, and food that passes through the digestive system only to remain in the feces may actually make the stool taste appealing. For pets already on a high quality food, divide the daily intake into several smaller meals.*
- *You can make stool taste repulsive to dogs using a vegetable-based chewable tablet like Dis-Taste, or by sprinkling some For-Bid over his food bowl.*
- *Keep your yard clean and feces free.*
- *Keep your dog active, since some dogs have been known to eat droppings as a negative behavior associated with boredom. Give them stimulating toys and interact with them on a daily basis.*

### ***If your Dog Eats Other Dogs' Stool. . .***

- *Always walk your dog on a collar and lead or leash. If you see your dog going for it, give them a firm "no" command and keep them walking.*

### ***If your Dog Eats From the Cat's Litter Box. . .***

- *Sprinkle some For-Bid over your cat's food to make her stool less appealing to the family dog.*
- *Consider getting your cat a litter box with a built-in cover like the Hooded Litter Pan or Catty Corner Litter Box to limit your dog's access to the litter.*

***As vile as you may view this behavior, our veterinarians emphasize you should never punish your dog for stool eating. To curb the habit, try the recommendations listed above, and if your dog continues, consult with your veterinarian.***

### **Why Do Dogs Eat Feces?**

#### ***Why Dogs Sometimes Eat Feces***

***Some dogs, especially those in kennel situations, may eat feces because they are anxious or stressed. One researcher suggests that dogs who have been punished by their owners for defecating inappropriately start to think any defecation is wrong, so they try to eliminate the evidence.***

***Another theory is that coprophagy (stool eating) is a trait passed down through the ages. Dogs' cousins, wolves and coyotes, may often eat feces if food is in short supply. Feces from herbivores (plant eaters) contain many vital B vitamins. Some researchers suggest that wolves (and some dogs) may eat feces to replenish their vitamin supply.***

***Dogs who eat their feces usually do not have a dietary deficiency. Some medical problems, however, can contribute to coprophagy including severe disorders of the pancreas (pancreatic insufficiency) or intestine, severe malnutrition from massive parasitic infestations, or starvation. These cases are rare.***

***In some instances, coprophagy may be a behavior learned from watching other animals. It may also become a habit in the course of play and puppies having to try out the taste of everything.***

