

# DIETARY INDISCRETION

**Dietary indiscretion means that a dog or cat has eaten something that should not be eaten, such as spoiled food from the garbage, dirt, clothing, or any number of things pets can get into around the house and outdoors.**

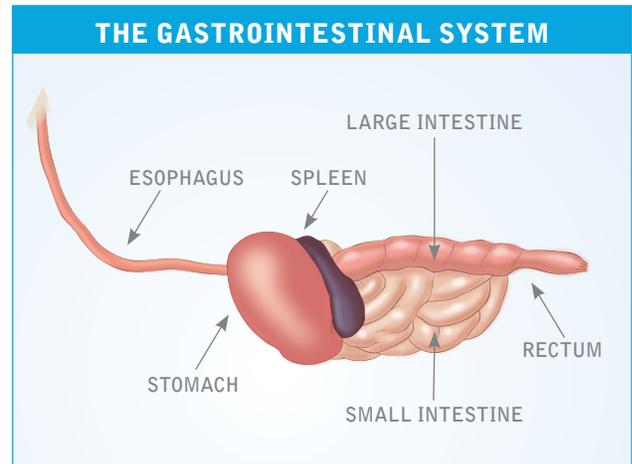
## HOW CAN I REDUCE THE RISK THAT MY PET WILL EAT SOMETHING HE OR SHE SHOULD NOT EAT?

This is easier said than done, especially if your pet loves the outdoors! But there are steps you can take to reduce the risk:

- Keep garbage in a place where your pet cannot tip it over.
- Keep food in the cupboard or refrigerator—don't leave food on the counter or table if your pet can reach it when your back is turned.
- Don't leave clothing and other articles around the house where your pet can get at them.
- Keep your yard free of items that might be dangerous or toxic to your pet.
- Keep an eye on your pet while he or she is playing in the yard.

## HOW ARE THE EFFECTS OF DIETARY INDISCRETION MANAGED?

If your pet develops gastrointestinal (GI) upset as a result of dietary indiscretion, your veterinarian may prescribe medication to help provide relief. The type of treatment will vary with the severity of your pet's condition. If your pet is dehydrated, fluid therapy is often required; and, if your pet is vomiting frequently, your veterinarian may advise you to withhold food and/or water for 12 to 24 hours.



Dietary indiscretion can upset the GI system and cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.

**Consult your veterinarian about specific questions you have regarding your pet's health, and be sure to follow his or her instructions.**