

# Changing the narrative

## Tools for reducing use of antimicrobials for GI conditions in companion animals



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# DISCUSSION GOALS...

- Recap of webcast on acute GI Upset
- A case - what would you do?
- Chronic enteropathy and Large Bowel Diarrhea (colitis)
- Alternatives to antimicrobials for chronic enteropathy

The “Roadmap”



# RECAP...THE ROADMAP: ACUTE ENTEROPATHY

March 2022, we partnered with **CommuniVet** to provide a CE-accredited webcast,  
“Pet parents have come to expect and even demand antimicrobials for mild acute GI upset - how can we change the narrative?”

<https://www.communivet.com/en/ca/education/webcasts/antimicrobials-for-mild-acute-gi-upset>

**PET PARENTS HAVE COME TO EXPECT  
AND EVEN DEMAND ANTIMICROBIALS  
FOR MILD ACUTE GI UPSET...**

**How can we change  
the narrative?**



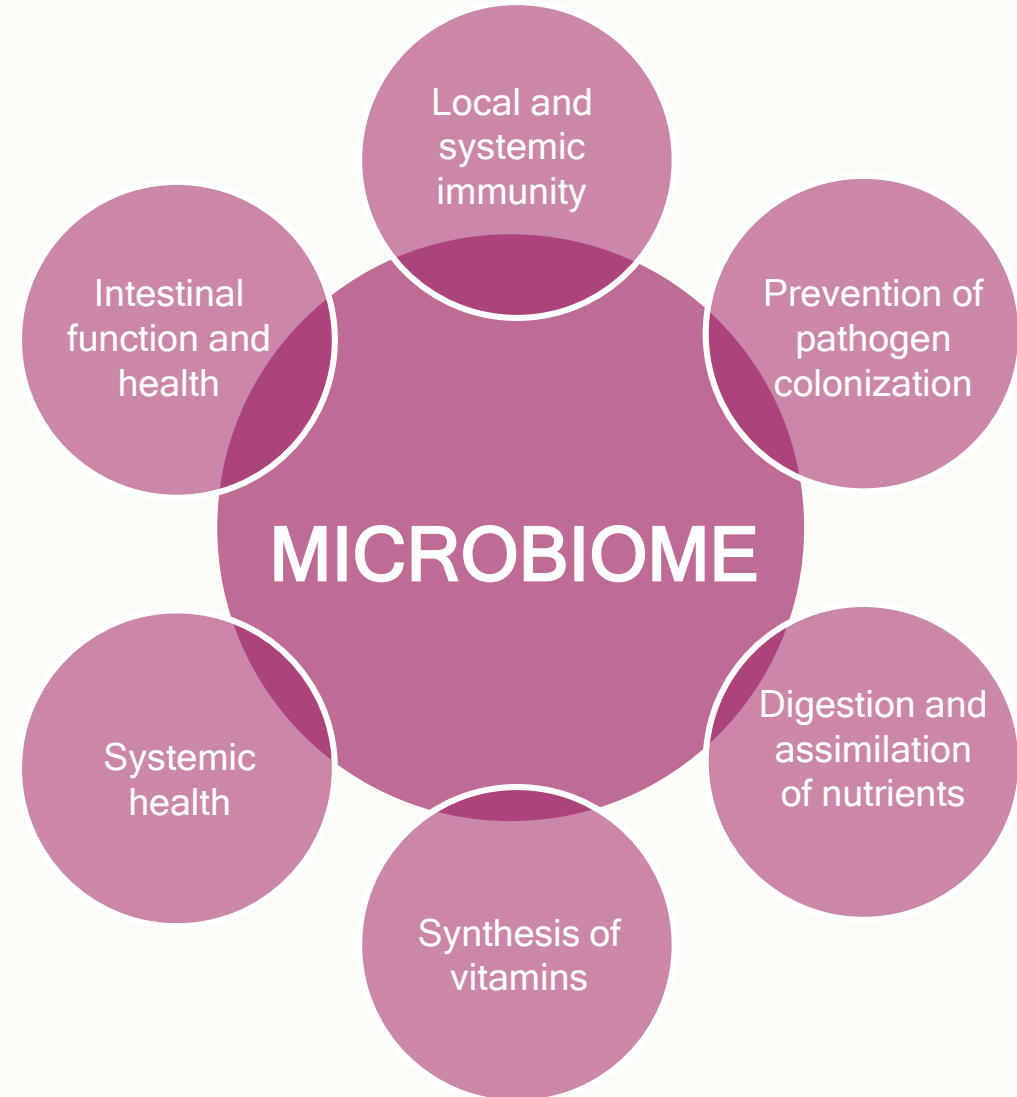
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# THE MICROBIOME

- Host benefit
- Why we care
- Risks of other diseases

Antibiotics in canine GI disease: when to use and when to ditch. February 19, 2020; Grimes and Lidbury, dvm360, March 2020, Volume 51, Issue 3.





# THE FACTS: EFFICACY?

## ANTIMICROBIALS ARE LARGELY UNNECESSARY IN ACUTE DIARRHEA

> 3,000 dogs, primary practice, acute diarrhea.

**Only diet and nutraceuticals associated with resolution.**

Antimicrobials made **no difference.**

60 client owned dogs, acute uncomplicated diarrhea.

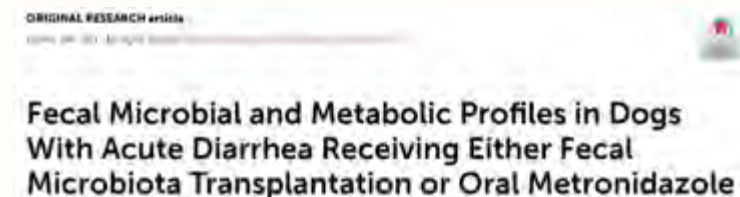
**No difference commercial probiotic vs oral metronidazole:**

Dogs presenting with acute diarrhea achieved acceptable fecal consistency after  $3.5 \pm 2.2$  days when receiving probiotic,  $4.6 \pm 2.4$  days with metronidazole, and  $4.8 \pm 2.9$  days with placebo, ( $p = 0.17$ ).

# THE FACTS: HARM

## ANTIMICROBIALS CAN HAVE A PROFOUND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MICROBIOME

- Metronidazole
  - Dogs treated with metronidazole vs. fecal microbiota transplant vs. controls
  - Altered microbial and metabolic profiles still present at day 28 compared to other groups
- Tylosin
  - Dysbiosis in healthy dogs
  - Re-establishment of native microbiota possible, but not guaranteed, even 2 months after discontinuation





# THE SOLUTIONS FOR ACUTE GI UPSET

## STEP 1: MEDICAL GRADE CLAYS

- ✓ The use of a clay containing paste can be extremely beneficial
- ✓ Helpful in resolving acute mild GI upset quickly

## STEP 2: SYNBIOTICS

- ✓ Do you use a probiotic? It is not “just because” an antibiotic is used

## STEP 3: OTHER

- ✓ Hydration Support
- ✓ Diet



# MONTMORILLONITE SUPERIOR CHARACTERISTICS

	MONTMORILLONITE	ATTAPULGITE	KAOLIN
CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURE	2:1	Ribbon structure	1:1
CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY	100 meg/100 g	30-50 meg/100 g	2-10 meg/100 g
WATER UPTAKE	High	Medium	Low
BINDING	High	Medium	Low

\* ENTERO AID +GI™

MONTMORILLONITE

\* ADVANCED GI

ATTAPULGITE

\* PROSOOTHE

KAOLIN



# ENTERO AID +GI™

- Montmorillonite clay with probiotic (*E. faecium*) and prebiotic (MOS)
- **10-15 times more effective** than kaolin
- Begins to **work within hours** → **resolution** of diarrhea more quickly
- Contains
  - L-glutamine
  - Electrolytes
  - No animal protein
- Hypoallergenic
- Health Canada approved

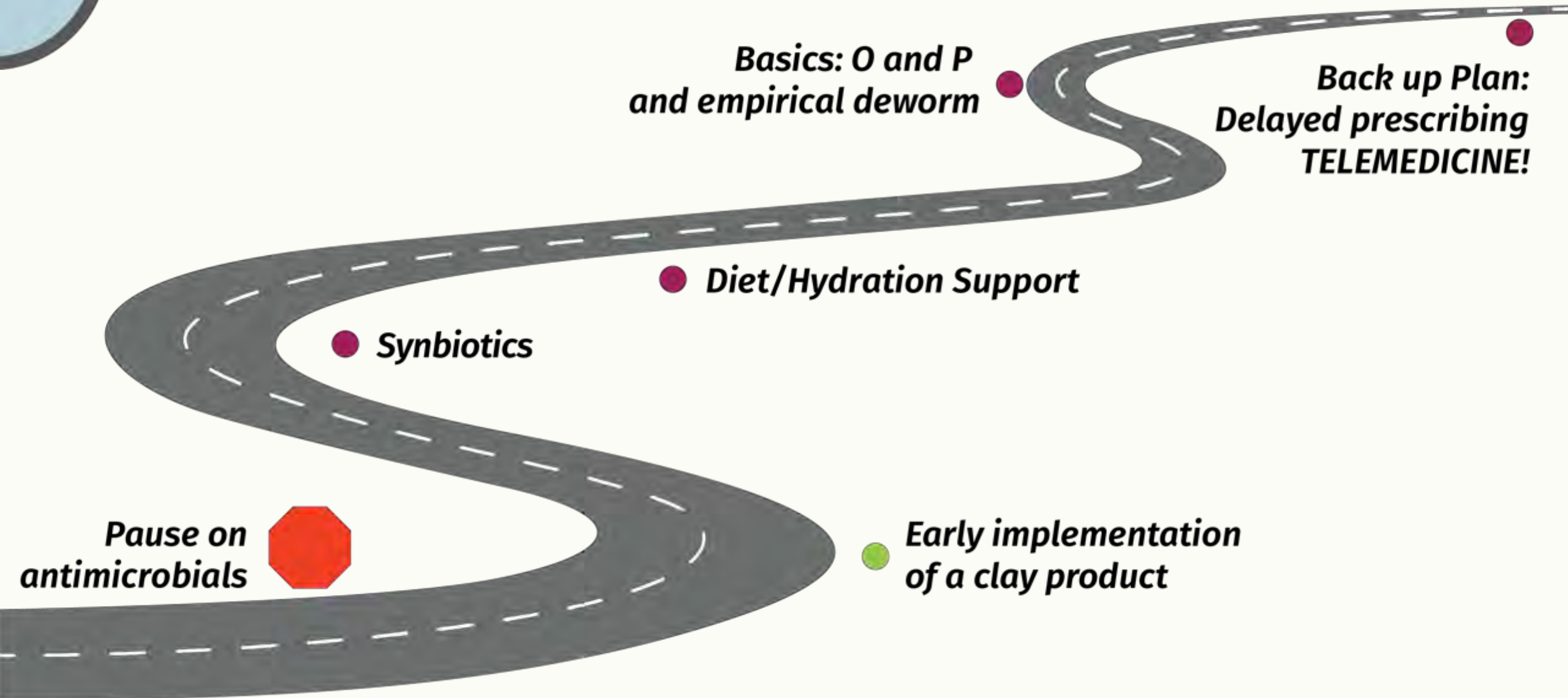


FOR DOGS  
AND CATS

**Restores microbiome and gut function WITHOUT HARM from antimicrobials**



# THE ROADMAP FOR ACUTE GI UPSET



# CHRONIC ENTEROPATHY



# LUNA

- 11-month-old, female, intact, labradoodle
- Bright and alert, playful
- Normal BCS & PE
- **Chronic, intermittent diarrhea for several months, without vomiting**
  - No specific pattern documented
- Hx of
  - Several positive fecal tests (*Giardia* and *Toxocara*)
  - Multiple courses of metronidazole for *Giardia*
  - Frequent diet changes, including gastrointestinal diets
  - Intermittent use of probiotics

## Current Rx

- Monthly heartworm/parasite prevention
- Regularly treated with tylosin
- High protein, low CHO diet



**What would you do for Luna?**

# COMPLEX CONSIDERATIONS FOR LUNA



Age - diets approved for growth



DO NO HARM to microbiome (long term implications)



Parasitism



Fibre needs





# THE DEFINITIONS

## Chronic, intermittent large bowel diarrhea (colitis) - what is it?

- Food / fibre responsive
- Some immune suppressive
- Other - infectious disease

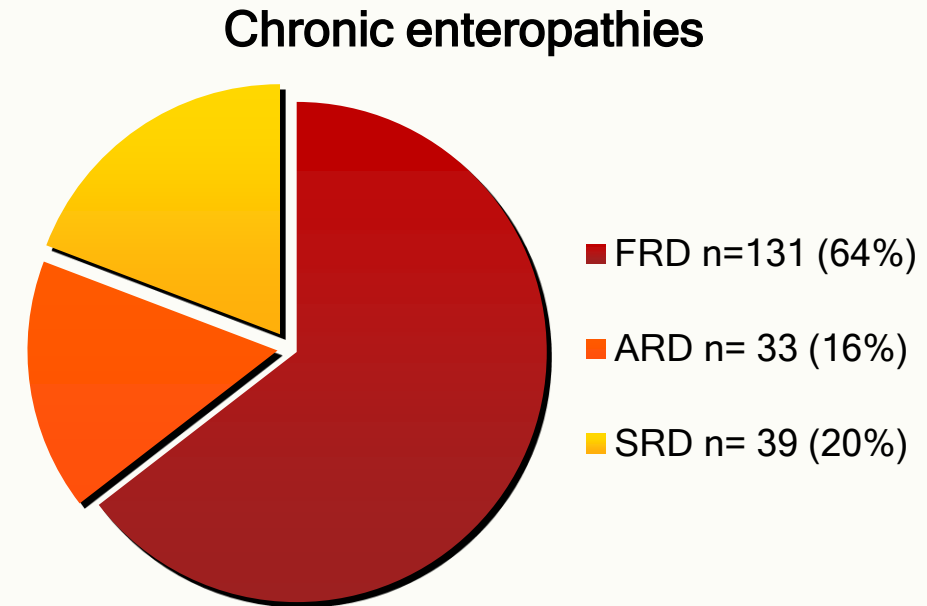


# THE DEFINITIONS

## Chronic enteropathy - what is it?

### Various definitions

- 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 2 days/week x 4 weeks
- Categories:
  - “Inflammatory bowel disease”
  - Food responsive (FRD)
  - Immune suppressive drug responsive (SRD)
  - Antimicrobial responsive (ARD)
  - PLE



Retrospective study, RVC: 203 dogs  
Allenspach, et al., Vet Rec 2016



## SUMMARY: 33 DOGS WITH ARD

GSD or other large  
breed dogs

Young!  
Median two years

Respond QUICKLY  
to metronidazole or  
tylosin

Relapse when  
antibiotics are  
discontinued

ARD dogs  
consistently have  
the worst outcome  
after one year



# WHY DO ANTIMICROBIALS **SEEM** TO **HELP**?

- Tylosin
- Metronidazole
- Hypothesis: Reduction of bacterial numbers and inflammatory molecules at GI barrier





# THE SOLUTIONS FOR CHRONIC GI CONDITIONS

## MEDICAL GRADE CLAYS

- ✓ The use of a clay containing paste can be extremely beneficial
- ✓ Helpful in resolving acute flare ups in CE

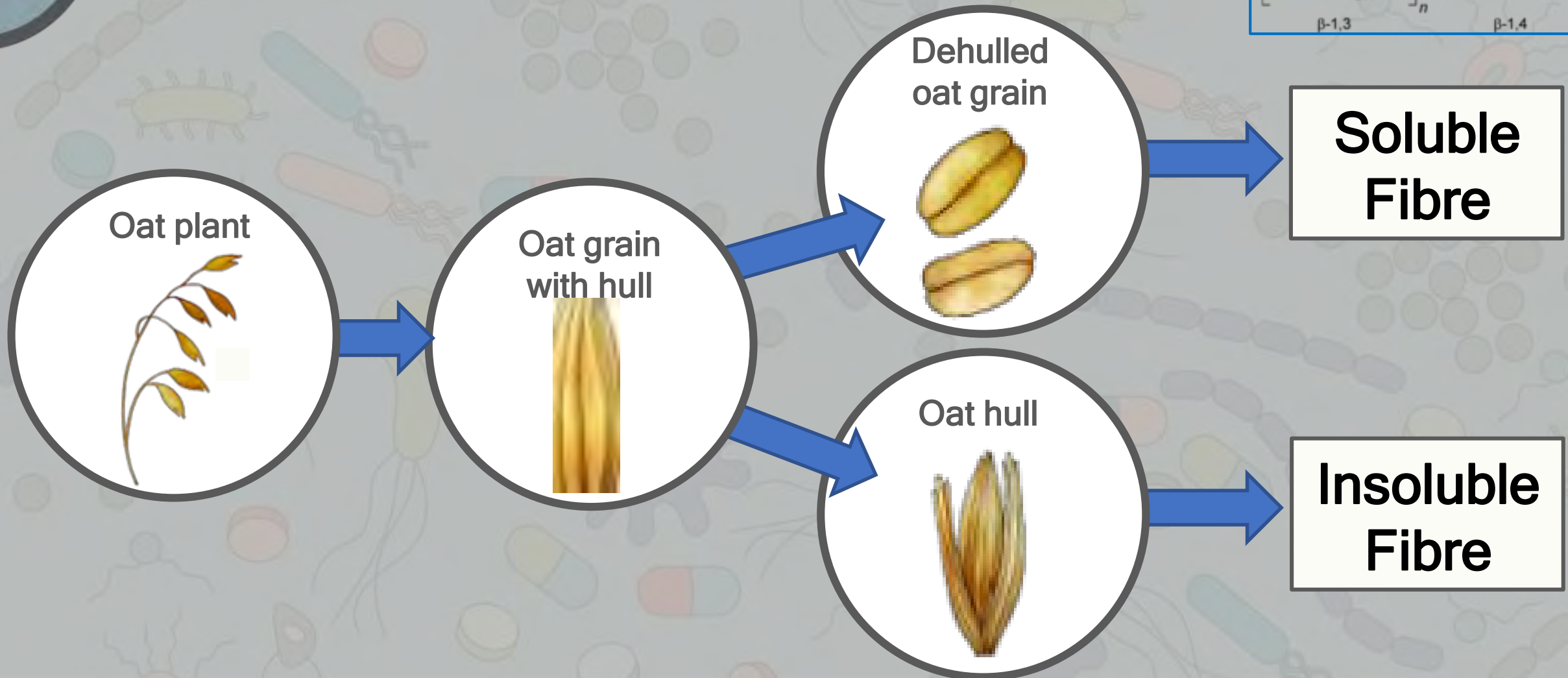
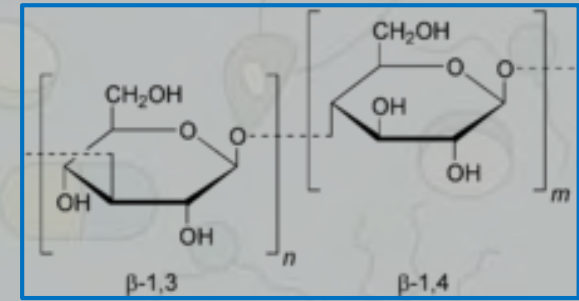
## SYNBIOTICS

- ✓ Used for both acute and chronic enteropathy. It is not “just because” an antibiotic is used (benefit to microbiome/AM sparing)

## DIET MODIFICATION/MIXED FIBRE SOURCES

- ✓ Hydrolyzed
- ✓ Single protein
- ✓ Diets and mixed fibre supplements

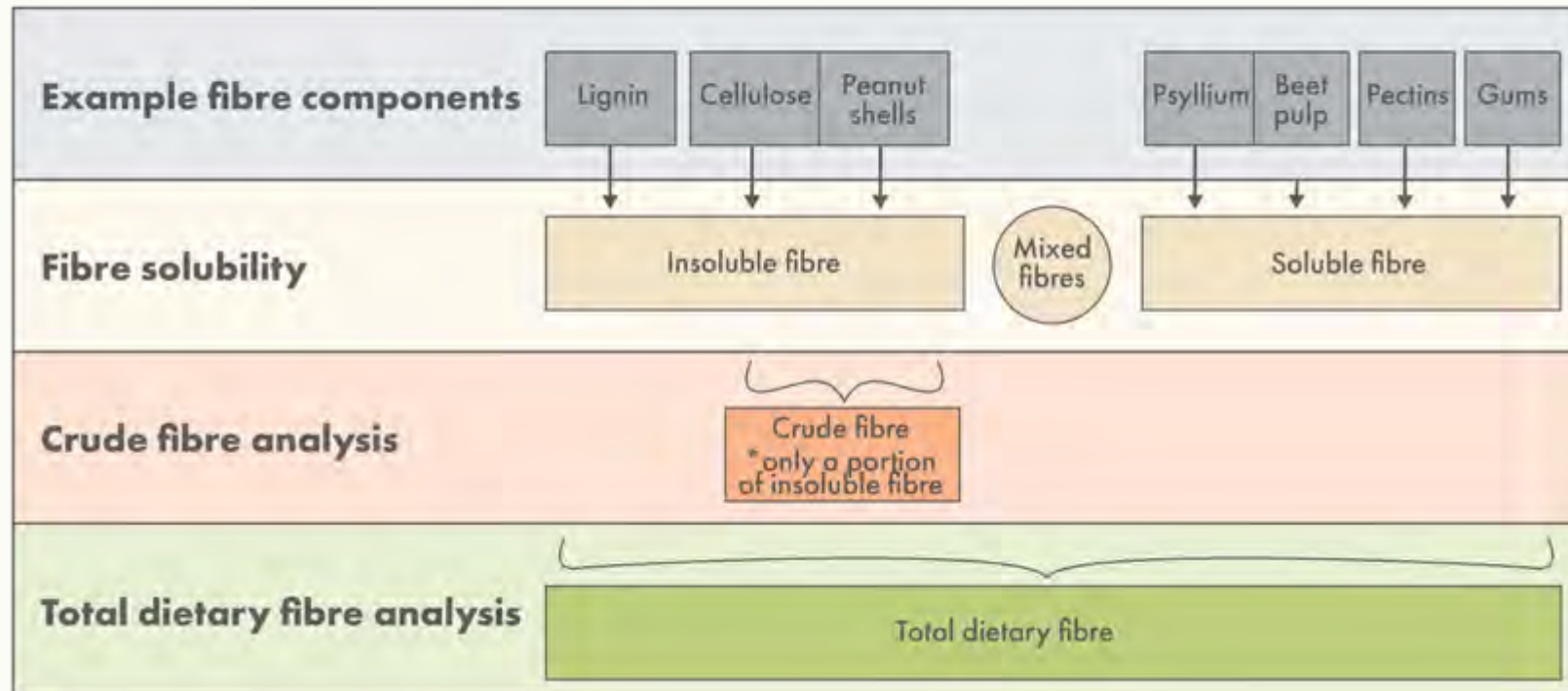
# WHAT IS FIBRE?



# FIBRE TYPES and AMOUNTS

- Soluble versus Insoluble

## FIBRE CLASSIFICATION





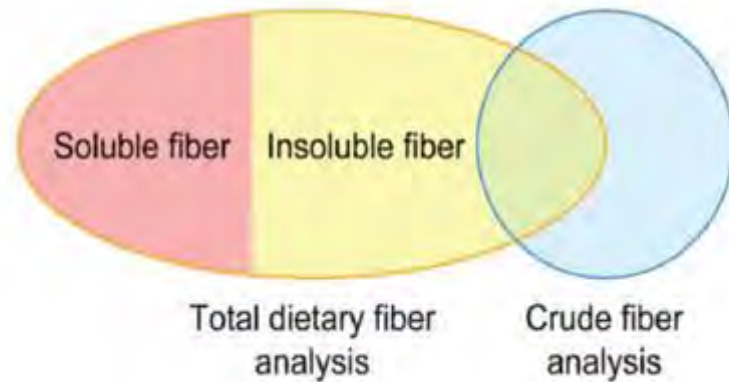
# FIBRE SOURCES

SOLUBLE FIBRE SOURCES	INSOLUBLE FIBRE SOURCES	PREBIOTIC FIBRE SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beet pulp</li><li>• Pectin</li><li>• Psyllium</li><li>• Guar gum</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bran</li><li>• Cellulose</li><li>• Hemicellulose</li><li>• Peanut/Soybean hulls</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fructooligosaccharides</li><li>• Inulin</li><li>• Mannan-oligosaccharides (MOS)</li></ul>

- Definition of mixed fibre source
- **Mixed fibre source is generally ideal**

# FIBRE AND DIET CONTENT

## TDF versus Crude Fibre

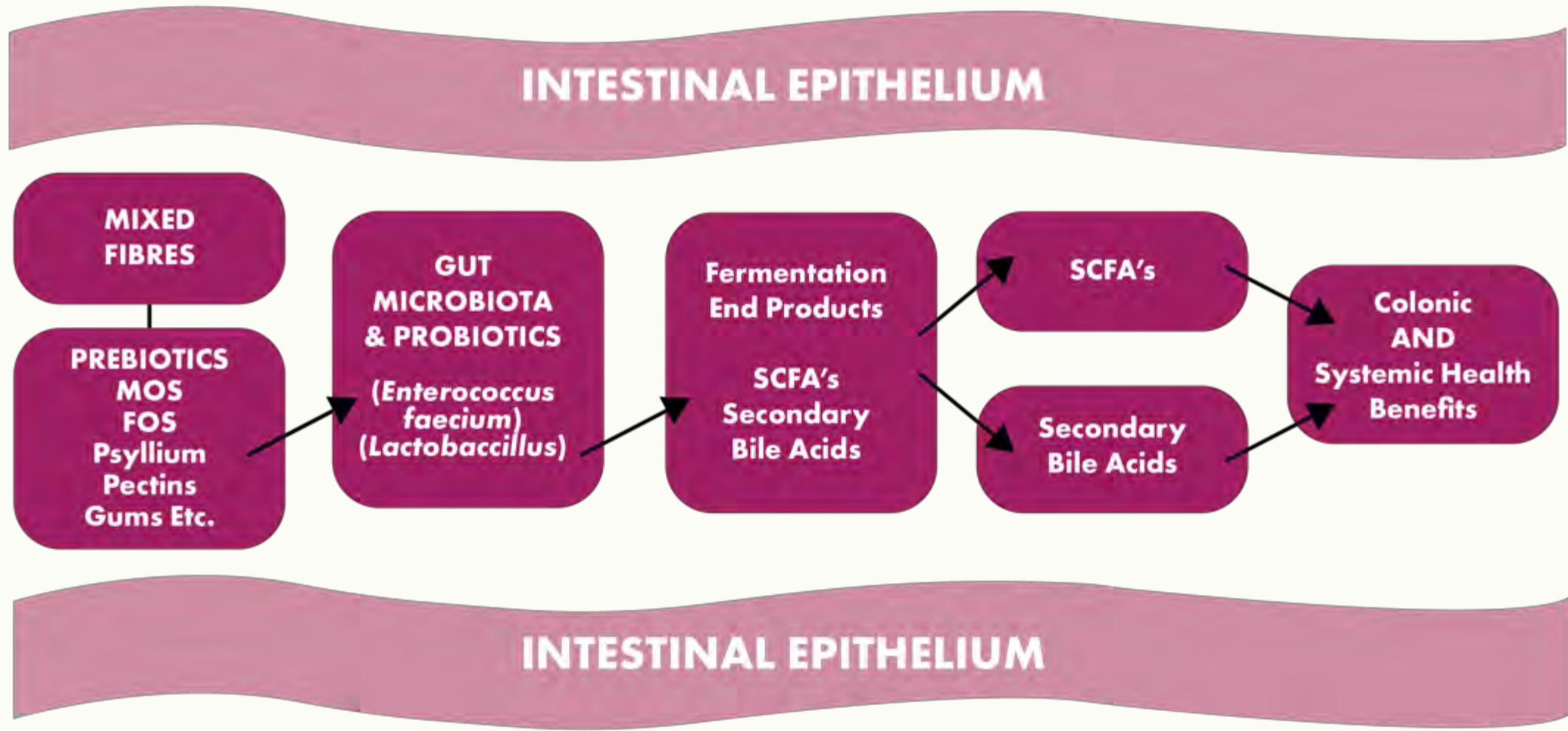


**Figure 1.** Schematic depiction of the relationship of total dietary fiber, crude fiber, insoluble fiber, and soluble fiber.

	GRAMS PER 1000 KCAL ME
Protein	69
Fat	32
Carbohydrate	140
Crude Fibre	17
Total Dietary Fibre	54



# BENEFITS OF FIBRE



**Adapted from:** <https://api.intechopen.com/media/chapter/42107/media/image3.png>



## RECOMMENDED TYPES OF FIBRE - GI DISEASES

CONDITION	FIBRE TYPE
Acute gastroenteritis	Mixed
Chronic enteropathy/ inflammatory bowel disease	Mixed
Colitis	Mixed
Chronic constipation	Mixed, mostly soluble

- Fibre type can be mainly soluble, mainly insoluble, or mixed soluble/insoluble.

*Adapted from:* Lenox C. E. (2021). Nutritional Management for Dogs and Cats with Gastrointestinal Diseases. The Veterinary clinics of North America. Small animal practice, 51(3), 669-684.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cvsm.2021.01.006>





# EVIDENCE FOR FIBRE USE - Colitis

**Fritsch 2022, BMC:** Mixed fibre diet, 31 client dogs; Improved fecal score and reduced inflammatory markers

**Lappin 2022, JVIM:** Mixed fibre diet, 52 shelter dogs; Improved fecal score and reduced frequency

**Alves 2021, BMC Res:** Psyllium, 22 working police dogs; Improved stool quality, weight gain

**Leib 2000, JVIM:** Psyllium, 37 client dogs; Fecal score improved

**Improved stool quality**

# DISCUSSION FOR FIBRE USE in CE.... 2022



- Purina Institute Round Table
- ACVIM specialist course - Microbiome
- ACVIM Forum 2022



# ROLE OF THERAPEUTIC DIETS

- Content (some proprietary)
- Diets and mixed fibre sources



# FIBRE SUPPLEMENTATION TO AN EXISTING DIET

- Availability of diets
- Acceptance
- Patient context
  - Growing dogs, often large breed
  - Owner preference: raw, non-therapeutic
  - Allergic disease
  - Other co-morbidities
  - Home formulation
- Dose is to effect, gradual introduction



# WHAT ABOUT... ADDING PUMPKIN AND OTHER FOODS ?

Ingredient	Amount	Total fiber
Psyllium husk	2 tbsp	~20 grams
Canned pumpkin	3 cups	
Green beans	8 cups	





# FIBRE SUPPLEMENTS

- Mixed fibre sources
  - Content varies (soluble versus insoluble)
  - May be useful as adjunctive therapy
  - Addition of fibre to a current diet that cannot be changed



# FIBRE BOOST +GI™

- **Mixed fibre:** oat fibre and psyllium seed husk
- **Synbiotic:** probiotics (*E. faecium* and *L. acidophilus*) and prebiotic (MOS)
- **Montmorillonite** clay

Also contains

- B glucan
- L-glutamine

Vegan/Hypoallergenic

Health Canada approved

FOR DOGS  
AND CATS

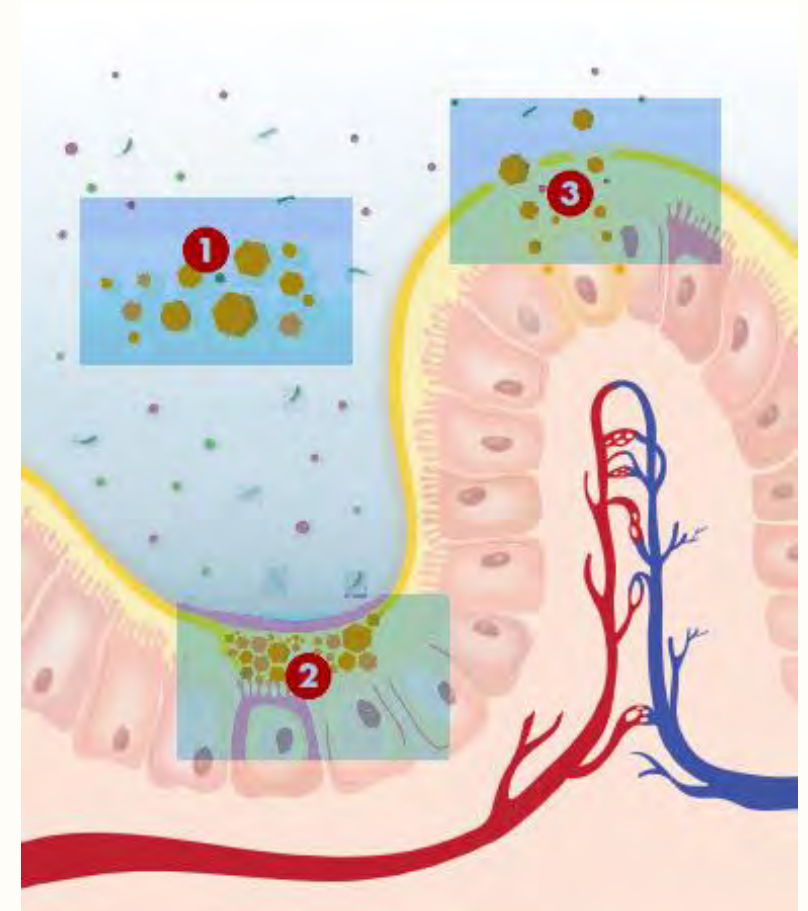


Restores microbiome and gut function **WITHOUT HARM** from antimicrobials

# ADDED BENEFIT: MUCOSAL PROTECTION

## MONTMORILLONITE (DIOSMECTITE) SAFELY CONTROLS SYMPTOMS DURING DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC DIARRHEA in HUMANS

- **Advances in Therapy (2021)**
  - Adults with chronic diarrhea have improved stool frequency and consistency.
  - Reduces abdominal pain, bloating, and flatulence.
  - Safe, with few adverse events.
- **BMC Microbiology (2022)**
  - Five-week administration of diosmectite on the fecal microbiota of 35 adults with functional chronic diarrhea.
  - No microbiota-related physiological alterations with long-term treatment.





# FIBRE SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTS

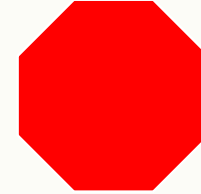
	<b>Fibre Boost +GI®</b>	<b>Glandex®</b>	<b>Vetasyt®</b>	<b>Fortiflora SA®</b>	<b>Metamucil® (psyllium)</b>
<b>Fibre</b>	Mixed	Mixed	Primarily Soluble	Primarily Soluble	Primarily Soluble
<b>Soluble Fibre</b>	Psyllium	Apple pectin	Psyllium	Psyllium	Psyllium
<b>Insoluble Fibre</b>	Oat fibre	Pumpkin seed			
<b>Prebiotic</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Probiotic</b>	✓	✓		✓	
<b>Medical clay</b>	✓				
<b>Flavour</b>	Vegan	Vegan	Vegan	Hydrolyzed Animal Digest	Vegan

# FIBRE SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTS (detailed)

	Fibre Boost +GI®	Glandex®	Vetasyll®	Fortiflora SA®	Metamucil®
<b>Fibre</b>	Mixed	Mixed	Primarily Soluble	Primarily Soluble	Primarily Soluble
<b>Soluble Fibre</b>	Psyllium	Apple pectin	Psyllium	Psyllium	Psyllium
<b>Insoluble Fibre</b>	Oat fibre	Pumpkin seed			
<b>Other Prebiotic</b>	MOS			Brewers yeast	
<b>Probiotic</b>	E. faecium L. acidophilus	E. faecium		E. faecium	
<b>Medical clay</b>	Montmorillonite				
<b>Other Key Components</b>	Beta glucan L-glutamine	Quercetin Bromelain		Vitamin C Vitamin E	
<b>Flavour</b>	Vegan	Vegan	Vegan	Hydrolyzed Animal Digest	Vegan

# REMEMBER LUNA?

Consider pausing antimicrobials



- Ova & Parasite and deworm
- Diet trial / mixed fibre
- Synbiotics



# WHEN DO YOU USE ANTIMICROBIALS IN GI DISEASE?

ANTIBIOTICS INDICATED	ANTIBIOTICS NOT INDICATED
✓ Parvovirus infection with neutropenia	✗ Uncomplicated acute diarrhea
✓ AHDS with signs of sepsis	✗ AHDS without signs of sepsis
✓ ARD trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ After <i>appropriate work-up</i></li><li>➤ After strict diet trial</li><li>➤ In an appropriate patient</li></ul>	✗ ARD trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In lieu of work-up</li><li>➤ Before diet trial</li></ul>
✓ E. coli-associated granulomatous colitis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Based on FISH +/- culture and susceptibility testing of colonic tissue</li></ul>	✗ Chronic large bowel diarrhea <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In lieu of workup</li></ul>
✓ Enteropathogenic bacteria with signs of systemic illness	✗ Enteropathogenic bacteria in nonclinical cases or mild, self-limited disease
AHDS = acute hemorrhage diarrhea syndrome, ARD = antibiotic-responsive diarrhea, FISH = fluorescence in situ hybridization.	

Antibiotics in canine GI disease: when to use and when to ditch. February 19, 2020. Grimes and Lidbury , dvm360 March 2020, Volume 51, Issue 3.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3612856/D2C845949AE61A0D762781138C8CD0C3>. 2022; Practical Approach to the Management of AHDS, Dr. Stan Marks

# THE BIG PICTURE

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?



Antimicrobial Use Guidelines now available



Firstline

<https://savi.canadianveterinarians.net/en/firstline/>

← Tylosin

### Stewardship Considerations

#### Antimicrobial Category I

##### Canadian VDD: Category I (Very High Importance)

- Drugs important for use in humans and likelihood and implications of AMR development are high
- Reserved for situations where lower category drugs are not an option, ideally based on C&S data
- Rarely indicated for empirical treatment or prophylaxis
- **Macrolide note:** Considered very important in some stewardship guidance strategies; use with best judgement



#### Mechanisms of Resistance

Acquired resistance can be present in various bacteria.



# 2022 AAFP/AAHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines

[View printable PDF of guideline](#)

*On a mobile device? Scroll down for the navigation menu.*

## Introduction

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines in companion animals are designed to aid practicing veterinarians in choosing appropriate antimicrobial therapy to best serve their patients and minimize the development of antimicrobial resistance and other adverse effects. The Guidelines were developed by an expert task force and provide a recommended framework for judicious antimicrobial use in companion animals.



**Therapeutic antimicrobial use should be confined to appropriate clinical indications.**

- Most cases of acute diarrhea are not due to pathogenic bacterial infections or are self-limiting, so antimicrobials are not indicated, do not hasten time to clinical resolution, and may cause further dysbiosis.<sup>10–13</sup>





# PEARLS ...



Antimicrobials held in the pharmacy **colour coded** based on antimicrobial importance rating



# PEARL #2: DELAY, DELAY, DELAY

■ ■ ■

WAIT. You won't get antibiotics for your pet today. Your veterinarian believes your pet's illness may resolve on its own. Follow the 2 steps below to ensure your pet gets better:

## Step 1

Firstly, follow your veterinarian's advice to help your pet feel better without antibiotics and continue to monitor the symptoms over the next few days.

To help your pet's symptoms:

- Keep your pet warm.
- Ensure access to plenty of fresh water.
- For gastrointestinal signs: offer a diet as recommended by your Greencross vet.
- For cats with urinary signs: monitor urination closely.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 2

**If your pet hasn't improved in \_\_\_\_ days, or if things get worse, go ahead and pick up the medication from our clinic\*.**

**If your pet has improved, they do not need antibiotics.**

Waiting to see if your pet really needs an antibiotic can help us to use antibiotics only when they are actually necessary. Antibiotics can cause side-effects like diarrhoea, vomiting, and more. Antibiotics can also kill your pet's good bacteria and leave your pet more susceptible to infections.

Not every infection needs to be treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics kill bacteria but not viruses and some bacterial infections can get better without antibiotics. Bacteria can adapt to become "resistant" so that an antibiotic no longer works. Antibiotic resistant bacteria can spread from humans to animals, and animals to humans.

Common Condition	Common Cause		Recovery Time	Are antibiotics needed?
	Bacteria	Virus		
Draining cat abscess	Yes		2-4 days	No
Cat flu	Maybe	Yes	2-3 weeks	Maybe
Feline urinary disease	Maybe		2-7 days	Rarely
Kennel cough	Yes	Yes	10-14 days	No
Ear infection	Yes		1-4 weeks	Topical
Diarrhoea/Vomiting	Maybe	Maybe	3-7 days	Rarely
Skin infection	Maybe <sup>b</sup>		2-4 weeks	Maybe (topical) <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Topical antibacterial therapy considered 1st choice

<sup>b</sup> also yeast or fungus



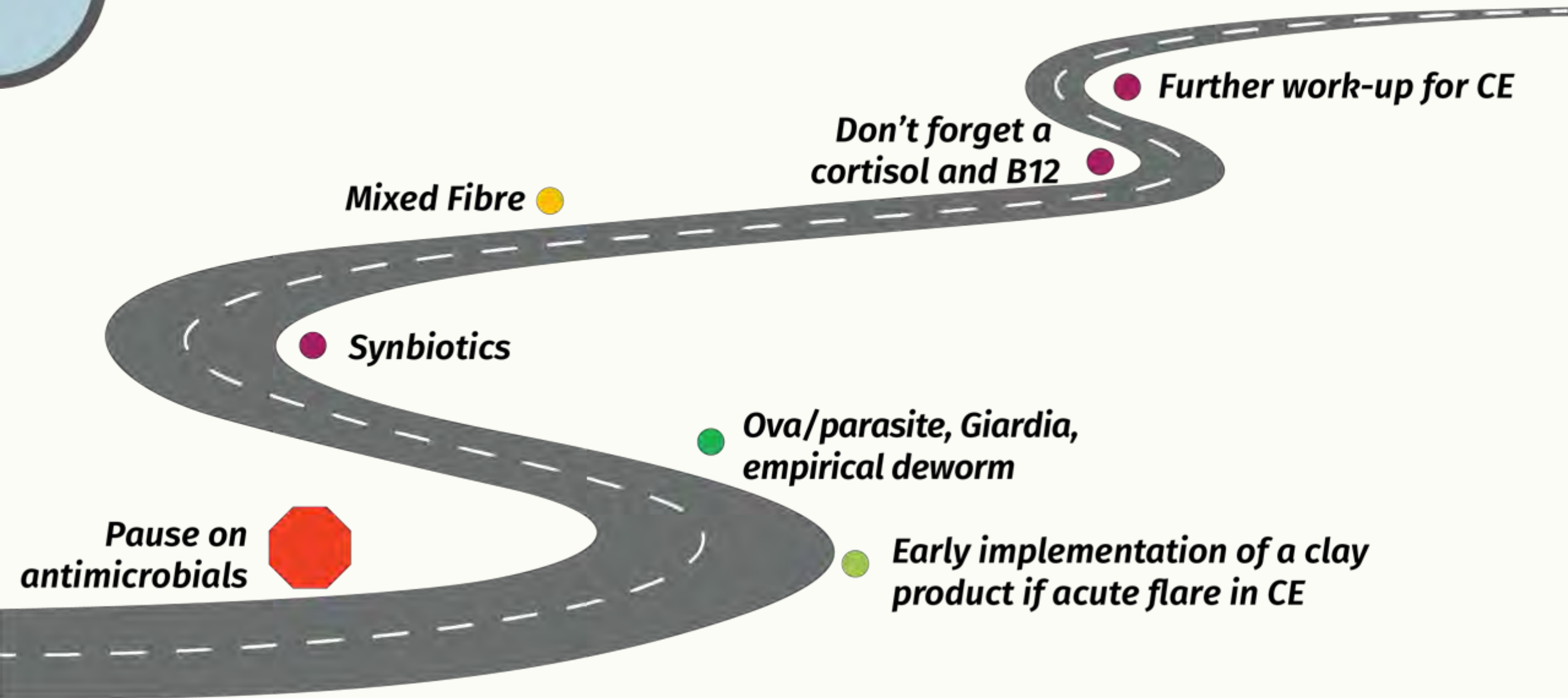
**59% of vets used  
delayed prescribing**



**90% said delayed prescribing  
was a useful way of reducing  
unnecessary antimicrobial  
use**



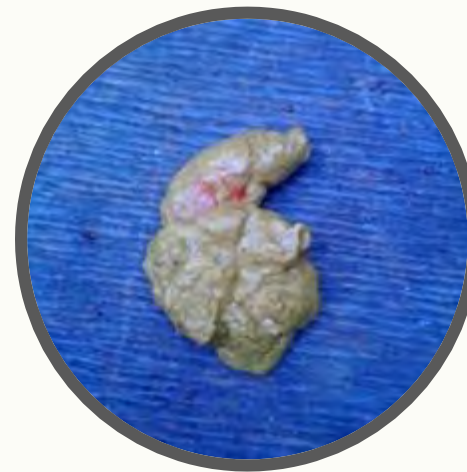
# THE ROADMAP FOR CHRONIC ENTEROPATHY



*“**Fibre** can be a solution to many GI issues.*

- *Colitis*
- *Chronic enteropathy*

*Try **fibre** before reaching for antimicrobials.”*





Thank you!

Happy to take your questions

