

# Improving Your Pet's Stool Quality

By Elizabeth Racine, DVM, animal nutrition consultant for PanTheryx APS LaBelle.

Abnormal stools – particularly soft stool and diarrhea – are one of the most common reasons cats and dogs are brought to the vet clinic every year. Although many cases of poor stool quality are managed with medication, diet is also an important factor in managing chronic digestive health issues. To accomplish this goal, recent nutrition research has shown that incorporating bovine colostrum into canine and feline diets may be an important tool to improve stool quality and digestive health for our pets.

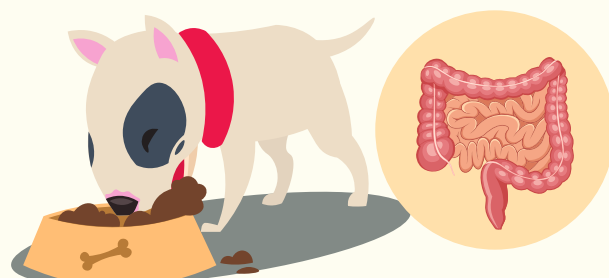
## Why Does Stool Quality Matter?

Stool quality is an important indicator of overall health.

From an animal health standpoint, fecal quality is also an important indicator of digestive health and diet digestibility.

A diet that produces soft stool or diarrhea is likely less digestible, leading to poor nutrient absorption and utilization.

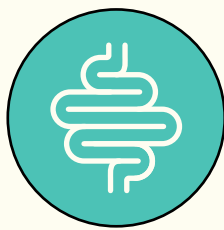
Chronic inflammation of the GI tract can also lead to many other health concerns, such as food allergies and inflammatory bowel disease, due to increased permeability of the gut barrier.



## Factors Affecting Stool Quality in Pets

Pet owners are quick to equate stool quality with the quality of their pet's diet. And they are not wrong – many dietary factors have an impact on stool quality.

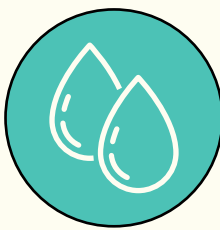
Digestibility



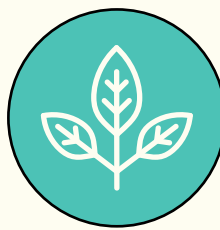
Quality of the protein used



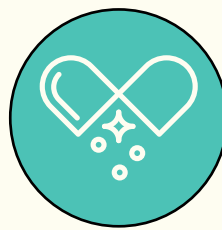
Fat content



Type and amount of fiber used



Inclusion of probiotics, colostrum, or other digestive supplements

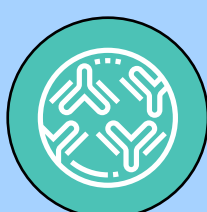


## Colostrum - A New Approach to Improving Stool Quality

Dietary cow colostrum supplementation is an emerging solution to address stool quality concerns in cats and dogs. In addition to improving stool quality, supplemental colostrum has also been shown to enhance localized immunity, decrease GI tract inflammation, improve GI barrier function, and support a healthy intestinal microbiome.<sup>1-3</sup>

Research has also demonstrated that colostrum may improve immune function and boost response to vaccination – a particularly important factor for developing puppies and kittens whose immune systems are not fully mature.<sup>3,4</sup>

### COLOSTRUM CONTAINS:



Antibodies



Growth factors



Immune modulators



Essential nutrients to support digestive health

## Colostrum: The Future of GI Health

With all the **research-backed benefits** of colostrum, it's easy to predict that pet owners may soon seek out diets containing this **essential ingredient**.



Fortunately for pet food manufacturers, sourcing and utilizing bovine colostrum in pet food is a relatively simple process.

For instance, La Belle Colostrum products are **ethically sourced** from quality dairies and can be incorporated into pet foods in a variety of ways. These products may be added during the extrusion process or dusted on the finished product. La Belle Colostrum delivers a standardized product **rich in nutrients** and immunoglobulins to **support digestive health and improve stool quality**.

“The use of bovine colostrum in pet food is still very much in its infancy, but it has already shown great promise.

**Bovine colostrum products are palatable, nutrient-rich, and easy to incorporate into a variety of pet foods to improve stool quality and digestive function. And better poop is something that we can all get excited about!”**



Elizabeth Racine, DVM

### References:

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2. Giffard J, et al. “Benefits of bovine colostrum on fecal quality in recently weaned puppies”. The American Society for Nutritional Sciences, 2004; 2126S – 2127S. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7107473/>
3. Jean-Philippe, C. Beneficial effects of dietary colostrum supplementation in kittens, Nestlé Purina Scientific Update of Feline Nutrition, Issue 4, 1–8 <https://docplayer.net/40099972-Nestle-purina-scientific-update-on-nutrition-feline-nutritional-peculiarities-in-health-and-disease.html>
4. Satyaraj E, et al. (2013) Supplementation of diets with bovine colostrum influences immune function in dogs. British Journal of Nutrition 1-6. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23773360/>