



CALVIN & SUSIE

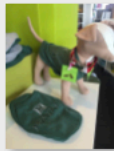
Hawaii's Place for Healthy & Happy Pets

Latest Store News

New Treats in Store!

Probiotic Jerky Treats in Turkey, Beef, and Chicken from Rescue Pet Foods, Lamb Crunchys from Pet Center Inc., and Earth Friendly Treats in Beef Liver flavor.

Show off your dog's Warrior pride! UH shirts are back, in time for football season!



Come see our NEW Vital Essentials Raw, Raw Bar at the Kailua store. Grab a baggie and hand pick your dog's favorite freeze-dried chews! All USA made & sourced!

Event Calendar

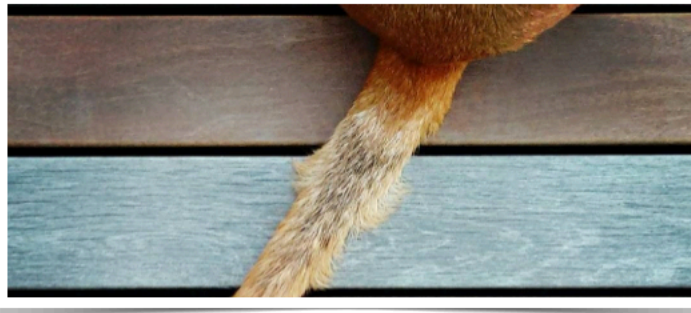
Next Anesthesia-Free Dental Cleaning dates:

- Kapahulu on Oct 30
- Kailua on Nov 3

Call for more details!

On The Blog

Tips For Keeping Your Senior Pet Happy and Healthy



HOW HEALTHY ARE YOUR DOG'S ANAL GLANDS?

by Louise Hung

Have you thought about your dog's anal glands lately?

When we imagine bringing our furry family member home from the shelter or breeder, we envision a life of playing catch, snuggling on the couch, and long, relaxing walks. Nobody daydreams about anal glands.

But anal glands and anal gland health are a very real part of life with dogs. It may not be as fun as picking out that shiny new collar, but expressing your dog's anal glands may keep your dog feeling great so he or she can enjoy the more exciting parts of life with you!

What are anal glands?

Your dog's anal glands are actually a big part of his or her identity. Located on either side of your dog's anus (at approximately "4 o'clock" and "8 o'clock"), they are glands that impart your dog's unique scent when they defecate. So, in a healthy dog, the glands excrete a strong-smelling fluid that marks their poop as their own. When dogs meet each other by sniffing each other's butts, they are getting a sniff of each dog's special scent.

If your dog's anal glands are working well, fluid flows into the glands or sacs, and is excreted efficiently during bowel movements. Apart from some pungent odors — even healthy glands don't smell like roses — your dog should not exhibit any signs of discomfort. The fluid should not fill the anal glands to the point of feeling discomfort, swelling, or in worst cases, bursting.

However this isn't always the case with modern, domesticated canines. Because dogs' diets, activity levels, and genetics have changed over generations to reflect domesticated life, the vestigial (no longer needed for survival) anal glands can become impacted, abscessed, even entirely non-

functioning. All of which can lead to varying degrees of discomfort for your dog.

What causes your dog's anal glands to "malfunction"? How can you help prevent it?

In many cases anal glands do not excrete properly due to a diet lacking in fiber and roughage resulting in soft stools. If a dog's stool is too soft, the glands do not receive adequate pressure from defecation to expel anal gland fluid. A firmer stool puts pressure on the glands during defecation.

Dogs on a high carbohydrate diets heavy in grains may experience anal gland impaction. Foods that have the primary ingredients listed as corn, soy, wheat, or potatoes can contribute to soft stools thus contributing to anal gland impaction. Some dogs suffering from anal gland issues benefit from switching to a grain free or low carbohydrate diet. Dogs on a raw or biologically appropriate diet also tend to have firmer stools. Adding raw meaty bones (never cooked bones!) into your dog's diet can also greatly aid the firmness of their stool (raw meaty bones being part of a balanced raw or biologically appropriate diet).

Plainly, your dog's poop is a strong indication of your dog's health. If your dog's stools are consistently soft, "messy", or watery, it might be time to consult your vet about a diet change.

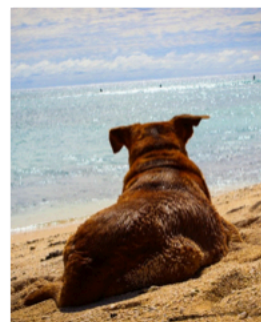
Obesity can also be a cause of anal gland malfunction in a dog. If your dog is very overweight, the skin may fold into or over the anal glands pushing them deeper into the flesh of your dog. In this case, the anal glands may get blocked or be unable to properly expel fluid. Again, the long-term solution to this is to alter your dog's diet and exercise in order to lose weight, but in the short term you, or a professional may need to express your dog's anal glands.

Injury to your dog's spine and/or pelvic region (be it skeletal or muscular) can also inhibit or completely stop natural anal gland excretion. In this case the only choice may be to manually express your dog's anal glands in order to avoid problems. Whether your dog suffers an acute or chronic injury, be sure that enquiry into your dog's future anal gland health is part of the conversation with your vet.

While ideally your dog's anal glands are expressed naturally through defecation, it is not uncommon for many dogs to need some help.

Note: Always check with your vet before making any changes to your pet's diet or lifestyle. The Calvin & Susie Blogger always researches to the best of her ability, but she is not a vet. This blog is not in any way meant to replace veterinary advice or care. When in doubt, always ask a vet. (Read the full post at [The Calvin & Susie Blog!](#))

"Dog Butt" photo via [Flickr/Creative Commons License](#)



New & Featured Products

Calvin & Susie Aloha Pet Bed

NEW prints for our Calvin & Susie Aloha Pet Beds! Four new fabric prints will add a touch of island style to any room. Plus, we've added an additional bed size to make sure all your furry family members are accommodated. With ease of cleaning and care in mind, we designed our beds to feature:

- 2 layer design: The heavy duty outer cover can be separated from the filling and thrown in the wash when laundry day comes.
- The inner custom fitted liner can also be washed with the filling removed. The liner has its own zipper to keep the filling secure.
- Cover and Lining zipper aligned along length of bed to ease removal and stuffing.
- Double reinforced stitching at stress points, and post-construction metal zipper stops added on the bed cover for heavy usage.



Calvin & Susie Collection