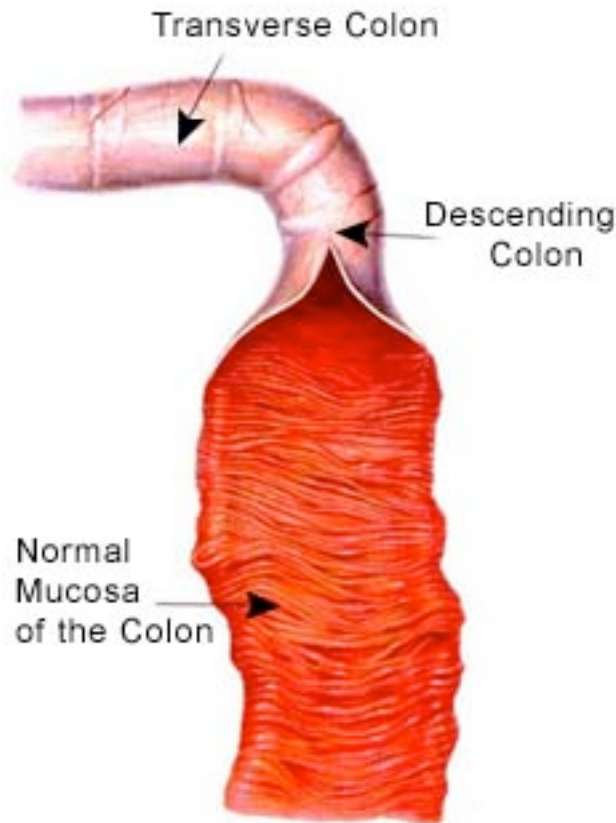




CAYMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Colitis

Colitis is defined as an inflammation of the colon. Two types of colitis are recognized: acute colitis and chronic colitis.

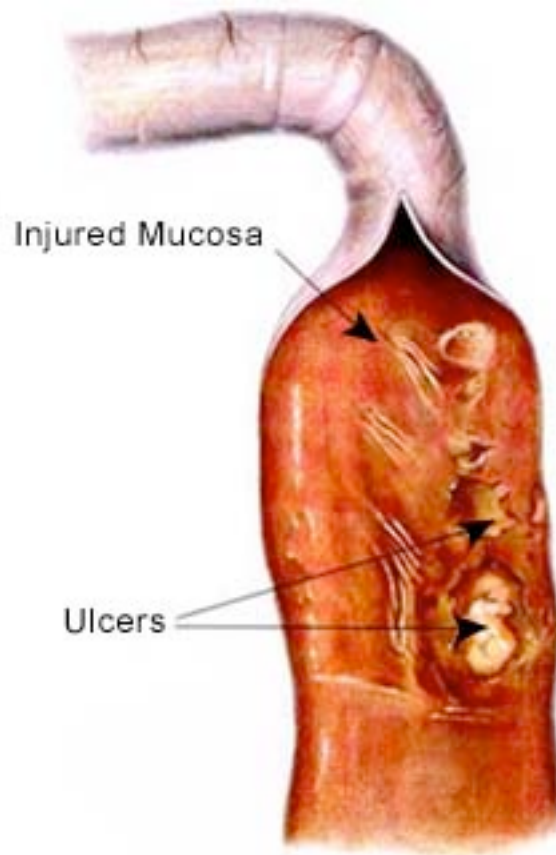


Normal Dog Colon

Symptoms of acute and chronic colitis are similar. The symptoms include: mucoid and/or bloody feces, semi-formed to liquid consistency of feces, small amount of feces, pain during defecation, and weight loss. Abdominal pain is often present and can be elicited by palpating the abdomen. Acute colitis is often seen in young animals. It occurs suddenly. The animal usually appears debilitated and depressed. Dehydration and weight loss are common symptoms of acute colitis. Chronic colitis occurs more slowly. The animal is often in good physical condition or may be underweight, dehydrated, and nervous.



CAYMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Lesions of Chronic Colitis

Causes of colitis include: intestinal parasites, ingestion of garbage and foreign material, bacteria, viruses, food allergies, stress, and immunologic factors.

A complete physical examination is necessary for diagnosing colitis. X-rays and laboratory tests are beneficial in identifying the cause. Occasionally, colonoscopy and biopsy are required.