

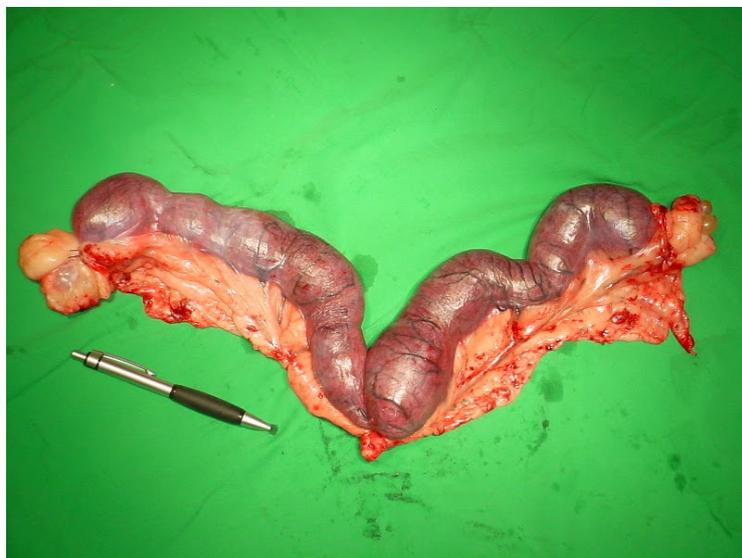
Late in May this year, I noticed that my 9-year-old bitch Foxearth Sticky Fingers, Sassy, had a pus like discharge from her vagina. I suspected an open Pyometra immediately.

I do not want to preach to the knowledgeable but I have spoken to people in the Breed before who did not know what this condition is so feel this is a good opportunity to clarify.

A Pyometra is a uterine infection, which generally develops around 4-6 weeks after a season, however I have actually had a bitch develop a full blown pyo just two weeks after her season.

A pyo is life threatening and should be treated as an emergency.

There are two types, an open Pyo, this is when pus will drain from the uterus. Or a closed Pyo, meaning there is no discharge from the vulva as the cervix is closed, and like in appendicitis, the uterus may rupture and pus escapes into the abdomen, causing peritonitis and possible rapid death. Many years ago I had a Rough collie with a closed Pyo and sadly lost her at a young age.



A pyo infected womb, NB: the womb should be thinner than the pen

Symptoms of pyometra include early warning signs of the animal feeling unwell, such as vomiting, refusal to eat, lethargy, increased thirst and frequent urination. She may also appear to be uncomfortable, but equally none of these symptoms may appear. Therefore, it is very much a

case of knowing your own bitch and watching for changes causing suspicion particularly after her season and have her checked out by your vet.

On this occasion Sassy was taken to my vets and scanned, the scan did show shadows in the womb so it was agreed a Pyometra was indicated.

However when she was opened up the vet discovered a womb filled with many, many tumours attached, (see pic below), a second vet had to be called in to help as finding the uterus was a problem.

My vet said no one had ever seen this before and had Julian's (Yorkshire Vet) camera crew not left for a long weekend then they would have filmed the operation. Numerous photos have been taken I hear by the practice. One of the nurses said, "just what everyone wants to see on TV when they have their tea"!



The tumors are believed to be none cancerous and Sassy is doing well.

A note to breeders: the use of progesterone or estrogen based drugs used for any reproduction condition can cause the same changes in the uterus and predispose your dog to pyometra