



Clinical Scoring for Chronic Enteropathies in Dogs

Close monitoring of dogs with chronic enteropathies is important over the first few months of treatment to make decisions regarding treatment escalation or de-escalation. Repeat clinical severity scoring, using the CCEAI, gives a more objective measure of response and aids client compliance by highlighting areas of improvement. A classification of very severe disease has been shown to be a predictor of a negative outcome and may indicate that the dog is at higher risk of being a non-responder.

Score the parameters listed below for the Canine Chronic Enteropathy Activity Index (CCEAI; Allenspach et al, 2007). This gives a score from 0 to 3 on a range of clinical signs or biochemical markers to give an overall severity score out of 27. A score of 0 to 3 would be classed as insignificant disease, 4 to 5 as mild disease, 6 to 8 as moderate disease, 9 to 11 as severe disease, and greater than 12 as very severe disease.



Table 1. The Canine Chronic Enteropathy Activity Index

Category	Description	Score	Total
Attitude/activity	Normal	0	
	Slightly decreased	1	
	Moderately decreased	2	
	Severely decreased	3	
Appetite	Normal	0	
	Slightly decreased	1	
	Moderately decreased	2	
	Severely decreased	3	
Vomiting	Normal	0	
	Mild (1x/wk)	1	
	Moderate (2x/wk to 3x/wk)	2	
	Severe (>3x/wk)	3	
Stool consistency	Normal	0	
	Slightly soft faeces	1	
	Very soft faeces	2	
	Watery diarrhoea	3	
Stool frequency	Normal	0	
	Slightly increased (2x/d to 3x/d) or blood/mucus/both	1	
	Moderately increased (4x/d to 5x/d)	2	
	Severely increased (>5x/d)	3	
Weight loss	None	0	
	Mild (<5%)	1	
	Moderate (5% to 10%)	2	
	Severe (>10%)	3	
Albumin levels	Albumin >20g/L	0	
	Albumin 15g/L to 19.9g/L	1	
	Albumin 12g/L to 14.9g/L	2	
	Albumin <12g/L	3	
Ascites/peripheral oedema	None	0	
	Mild ascites/peripheral oedema	1	
	Moderate ascites/peripheral oedema	2	
	Severe ascites/pleural effusion/peripheral oedema	3	
Pruritus	No pruritus	0	
	Occasional itching	1	
	Regular itching, but stops when asleep	2	
	Regularly wakes up due to itching	3	
Total score			

Allenspach et al, 2007.