

While not the most glamorous topic, understanding the role of anal glands and knowing how to manage them is crucial for your pet's comfort and well-being.

Anal glands, or anal sacs, are two small glands located on either side of your pet's anus. They produce a smelly secretion that animals naturally excrete during a bowel movement, to mark territory and communicate with other animals. Sometimes, these glands don't empty properly and can become impacted, infected, or abscessed, leading to discomfort and health issues.

#### Signs of Anal Gland Issues

- Scooting or dragging their rear on the ground
- Licking or biting at the anus
- A strong, foul odor
- Swelling or redness near the anus
- Visible discomfort or pain around the rear end

For some pets, especially small breeds or those with particular health issues, the anal glands do not express naturally. Manual expression, performed either by a veterinarian or a trained professional, can prevent the discomfort and potential complications of impacted glands. If your pet shows signs of anal gland issues, it's best to have them examined by a professional to rule out infections or other complications.

Regular check-ups help monitor the health of your pet's anal glands. A high-fiber diet can also support natural gland expression by creating bulkier stools. Always watch for the signs of discomfort in your pet, as early detection and treatment can prevent more serious issues.

If you notice any of the signs mentioned or if your pet seems to be in discomfort, please don't hesitate to contact us. We can provide an examination, express the glands if necessary, and offer advice on managing and preventing future issues. Anal gland care is a vital part of your pet's overall health.