

Signs the Glands Are Impacted

If your dog's anal glands fail to express properly, they may actually become impacted and make your dog very uncomfortable. Watch for these signs:

Your dog begins scooting or dragging his rear across the floor.

Your dog keeps licking or chewing near his rectum.

Your dog's stools have become soft and mushy.

You'll likely notice a foul or "fishy" odor coming from your dog's rear.

If you notice one or more of these signs, it may be a good idea to take your dog in for an anal expression. It also seems that smaller dogs or obese dogs are predisposed to this problem. If your dog is under 20 lbs., be sure to keep a close eye on this region.

Many dogs never seem to have a problem with their anal glands. However, bacteria can build up in the anal glands if they don't express properly, and this can lead to an infection. Left untreated, the infection can produce an abscess which may eventually rupture through the skin and cause further complications

The glands may actually need to be manually expressed, a job best left to the professionals such as veterinarians and groomers. Professional dog groomers will perform this procedure for you. A groomer is a good choice because she likely sees your dog every few months and, thus, there's less time that the glands are going unchecked.