

If your Clumber swallows something...

Clumbers are flushers and retrievers by nature. It is not uncommon for them to carry something around in their mouth. It is when the carrying turns into chewing and swallowing that presents a problem.

List of items that have been known to be eaten of a Clumber Spaniel:

- A jar of Alfredo sauce: all of the sauce and about 85% of the glass jar
- Athletic socks
- Baby socks
- Bathing caps
- Batteries
- Blankets
- Books
- Bras – sport and under wire
- Brushes and combs
- Buttons off of skirts
- Canned vegetables
- Cards – credit cards, driver's license
- Cars – steering wheel, gear shifter knob, seat belts, seats, door lining
- Carpet
- Cash
- Cell phones and car adapters
- Chair rungs
- Cross stitch work
- Coffee table legs
- Cords (lamp, stereo system, coffee maker, computer)
- Corn cobs
- Curtains
- Dentures
- Diapers
- Disposable razor parts
- Dog leashes
- Dog mats, beds
- Door mats
- Door knobs
- Dress socks (pair rolled up)
- Dry deck
- Dry wall
- DVDs, CDs, records, cassettes, VHS Tapes
- Ear wipes
- Eye drops
- Eye glasses
- Fabric softener sheets
- Flower bulbs
- Folding chairs and canopies
- Furniture
- Glitter crayons
- Hand mirrors
- Hearing Aids
- Ink pens
- J-cloths
- Jalapeño peppers
- Jewelry
- Kleenex (new and used)
- Kitchen knife handles
- Kitchen towels
- Latex gloves
- Lip Gloss
- Live Animals – baby birds, baby bunnies, kittens, chicken, cockatiel, chinchillas
- Magazines
- Mice
- Nerf Darts
- Other animal's feces
- Pantyhose, knee highs
- Pen caps
- Pieces of glass
- Phone books
- Photos and photo frames
- Pillows
- Plastic
- Plastic toy box containers
- Posters
- Pony tail scrunchies
- Pressure washer – hoses and nozzles
- Purses
- Robes, robe ties
- Rubber bones - "Indestructible"
- Rubber dog dish rings
- Rubber dishwashing gloves (swallowed whole)
- Rocks
- Screens
- Shoes
- Solid hardwood 100 year old window sill
- Spoons
- Steering wheels
- Straps (purse and luggage)
- Squeakers out of toys
- Tampons
- Tarps
- Tennis balls
- Toilet paper rolls
- Toys
- Trees
- Trombone slide oil bottles
- TV remotes, cords, outdoor cable line
- Underwear
- Wallpaper
- Wood chips

Course of action

If your Clumber swallows something, contact your vet immediately. An obstruction which is not corrected has a high likelihood of causing peritonitis, bowel rupture, septicemia and death. Depending on the size, texture, and chemical composition of the substance, your vet may recommend one of the following:

1. Inducing vomiting:

- Possible complications: choking or aspiration that could lead to pneumonia.

NEVER induce vomiting if a dog has swallowed a petroleum based product or a corrosive substance). When in doubt, call Poison Control (ASPCA has a national animal poison control; local human poison controls are often very helpful with pets.

2. Monitoring closely and allowing the item to pass:

- Possible complications: inability for the object to move through the digestive system, in which case an emergency exploratory surgery or gastrotomy/enterotomy may be needed to retrieve the object from the stomach, or to relieve an intestinal obstruction.

Intravenous fluids, and sequential x-rays, are very useful to facilitate and monitor movement of some foreign bodies.

3. Endoscopy:

- Possible complications: inability to remove the item, necessitating surgery, as well as minor irritation to the throat or stomach.

The dog will be lightly sedated and the vet will use an endoscope to retrieve the object. This works well if the object is still in the stomach, and sometimes the closest part of the small intestine, and can be grasped via the endoscope

4. Exploratory surgery and gastrotomy and/or enterotomy:

- Possible complications: infection, surgical adhesions (scarring), a stricture, (a narrowing of the intestinal tract). Furthermore, more than one enterotomy site may be necessary during a given procedure, depending on the object which has been ingested. Peritonitis is a remote possibility with surgery.

Moral of the story: ‘Clumber-proof’ your home, and never underestimate the power of a Clumber’s perception of “edible”.