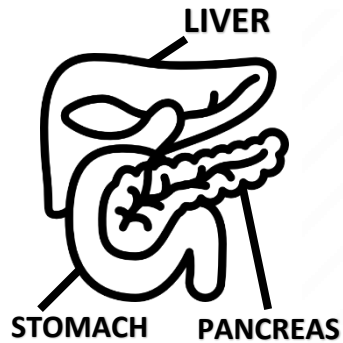


# Caring for your Dog with Pancreatitis



The pancreas produces enzymes to digest food in the intestines. It is in the front part of the abdomen. Pancreatitis occurs when the pancreas becomes inflamed. When inflammation occurs, the digestive enzymes are released from the surface of the pancreas which causes severe pain in the front part of your pet's abdomen. This is often enough to stop them from wanting to eat. Vomiting and diarrhoea are also commonly seen in pancreatitis.

Pancreatitis can occur spontaneously and can affect animals of any age but is most common in middle aged females. It can also be brought on by factors such as; a high fat diet, obesity and secondary to hormonal conditions – e.g. Cushing's disease.

## How has my pet been diagnosed with pancreatitis?

Pancreatitis is often suspected by a vet on clinical signs and palpation of the abdomen. However to confirm a diagnosis, a CPLi (canine pancreatic lipase) blood test is needed, which will tell you if there is inflammation present.

An ultrasound scan and/or x-rays can help us to see the pancreas and surrounding tissues, and assess how severe the problem is. In severe cases, dogs with pancreatitis can get an abscess in the pancreas which makes the problem more severe.

## How do I help keep my pet's pancreatitis controlled?

Pancreatitis is an unpredictable condition and can have very different levels of severity. Most animals will recover completely from a single episode only to require the avoidance of fatty meals. Some patients will require more long term treatment.

Once a dog has had pancreatitis, it can come back so steps need to be taken to try to avoid this. The management of chronic pancreatitis involves avoiding the triggers in your pet's diet. The pancreas releases most enzymes when a fatty food passes into the intestines, so avoiding foods high in fat is very important. Please remember that many treats are high in fat, so check before you give them to your dog. There are specific low fat diets available for this condition so please discuss this with the vet and we will advise you further on a suitable diet.

## PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

## What medications/treatment is being planned for my pet?

The exact cause of pancreatitis is very often unknown as it is such an unpredictable condition. Our treatment controls the pain and inflammation but not what caused the problem. Medications may be given to rule out possible causes of the condition such as antibiotics in case of infection. Anti-inflammatories and pain relief is also an important part of your pet's treatment to make them feel better as the pancreatitis settles down.

If you find your pet has suddenly stopped eating and started to vomit, have diarrhoea and become lethargic, this may be a flare up of your pet's pancreatitis. If this is the case, you should call the practice and discuss with us what has been going on with your pet.

## Contact Information

Telephone (24 hours Emergency Line): 01472 347054

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 362821

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 240422

## FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.