

Pancreatitis in Dogs



About Pancreatitis:

- The pancreas is a small glandular organ located just below the stomach.
- It aids in the metabolism of glucose and helps regulate the blood sugar through the production of insulin. It also assists in digestion by secreting special digestive enzymes.
- Pancreatitis is when the pancreas suddenly becomes enlarged and inflamed.
- The digestive enzymes secreted by the pancreas are normally not activated until they reach the small intestine. With pancreatitis, these enzymes are released prematurely causing them to digest the pancreas itself.

Symptoms:

- Pancreatitis can be mild or severe. In severe cases, the condition is life threatening.
- Symptoms include loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever and diarrhea.

Causes:

- Veterinary professionals are unsure as to what causes pancreatitis. However, contributory factors include obesity, high-fat diets, rich treats and liver disease.

Treatment:

- A dog with pancreatitis must receive proper veterinary care. Food and water should be withheld for at least 2-3 days. This will stop the pancreas from secreting digestive enzymes, which can cause internal destruction.
- Since dogs with pancreatitis tend to become dehydrated, intravenous fluids must be administered to maintain proper electrolyte balance.
- Pain medication is usually required to keep your pet comfortable.
- Antibiotics may also be needed to prevent a secondary infection.

Prevention:

- Preventative measures include weight loss for obese dogs as well as restricting table scraps and rich foods.
- It is best to feed your pet a low-fat, high fiber diet that does not over stimulate the pancreas.
- A food that is high in antioxidants, vegetables and whole grains is ideal.
- A perfect example is Mulligan Stew Pet Food, a unique scientific formulation that works at the cellular level to promote whole body health.
- Ingredients found in Mulligan Stew may help reduce the risk of pancreatitis. The formula contains several cruciferous vegetables including cabbage and horseradish as well as non-milled brown rice. These foods are high in fiber and low in fat, which means your pet will slowly digest his food and absorb the much-needed nutrients without exciting the pancreas or throwing the body out of balance.

