



PANCREATITIS

Dangerous Symptoms

Get to the vet if you see these symptoms!

- Your pet has vomited several times
- Listless with no appetite
- Your pet's back is arched in discomfort.

Product Suggestions

- Dr. Harvey's Veg-To-Bowl (1% min. fat)
- Dr. Harvey's Canine Health (3% min. fat)
- The Honest Kitchen Fruit, Vegetable Base Mix (8% min. fat)
- Squarepet VFS Low-Fat Formula
- Herbsmith Milk Thistle
- Herbsmith Taurine Boost
- Four Leaf Rover Protect
- Animal Essentials Plant Enzymes & Probiotics
- Dexter's Deli Pet Health Guide on Coconut Oil

Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas, the gland that secretes enzymes needed to digest food. Pancreatitis occurs when digestive enzymes become activated while still in the pancreas, causing inflammation. There may also be other diseases involved such as hyperlipidemia, diabetes, hypothyroidism, and EPI.

Pancreatitis occurs in two different forms, acute and chronic, and both may be either mild or severe.

Acute pancreatitis occurs suddenly and is often severe. Symptoms include vomiting, loss of appetite, and an arched back. Pets may also appear listless and reclusive, refusing to get up and move around. **If your pet is experiencing an acute attack you should go immediately to the vet.**

Chronic pancreatitis refers to ongoing inflammation that is usually less severe and may even be subclinical (no recognizable symptoms), but can result in scarring that impairs the pancreas. Many pets who have just one attack and no other related diseases can go back to a normal diet, but they should be on beneficial supplements. We recommend that you make diet changes slowly. In our experience feeding a processed diet like kibble puts more stress on the pancreas over time.

We recommend freeze-dried premixes prepared with boiled meat. A highly digestible low-fat diet is the safest recommendation. This also allows you to easily customize the diet as needed. Boiling or baking meat and feeding without the liquid (in an effort to remove fat) will result in the loss of water-soluble nutrients so we strongly recommend adding a taurine supplement such as Herbsmith Taurine Boost.

Milk Thistle Seed helps protect and repair the pancreas. The powder can be added to food and should be used for several months at least. Because it also protects and repairs the liver and kidneys it provides important support for the whole body, and can be combined with whole-food supplements, digestive enzymes, and probiotics for even better support for their compromised system.

Low-fat diets long term can make the absorption of some essential nutrients difficult. Coconut oil, started very slowly, appears safe for most chronic pancreatitis dogs. This should be started well after an acute attack, when the dog's been stable on the low-fat diet made with premix and boiled meat.

If your pet does have other related diseases we recommend that you work with an integrative vet to ensure that your pet's road to wellness is properly monitored.

