



Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis is defined as the inflammation of the pancreas. The animal often shows signs of vomiting, painful tummy, diarrhoea and lethargy.

The pancreas is an organ which produces inactive enzymes that aid in digestion. These enzymes are then released into the small intestine where they are activated and break down fats and starches in the food. When the protective mechanisms get overwhelmed the enzymes get activated in the pancreas and 'digest' it.

Pancreatitis can potentially be a life threatening disease therefore treatment must be rapid. Treatment involves the administration of intravenous fluids, antibiotics, pain relief and nothing by mouth for a period of time to 'rest' the pancreas and to prevent further release of the enzymes.

Close monitoring is needed as disease can progress rapidly. Monitoring includes taking the patient vital signs (heart rate, Respiratory rate and Temperature) as well as blood pressure and blood tests to ensure organ function and hydration status is improving. Pain relief and antibiotics are administered when required.

Once your pet is able to go home it is recommended a diet of bland food for several days. A bland diet includes boiled chicken and rice or a commercial low fat diet. If the disease keeps reoccurring it may be important to put your animal on a bland diet indefinitely.

Please feel free to discuss any queries you have with our staff.