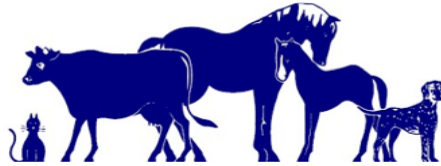


ABN 70 601 832 062



AJ & JL Williams Pty Ltd T/A

WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

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Friendly service and professional care for all.

Pancreatitis

The pancreas is an organ in the body that produces enzymes that aid in the digestion of food. Inflammation of the pancreas (Pancreatitis) occurs when these enzymes are activated within the pancreas causing it to attack and start to digest itself. This can occur acutely (suddenly) or over a longer period of time.

Cause:

Pancreatitis can occur without warning and with often no known underlying cause. It has been known to occur frequently following a high fat meal such as sausages, roast scraps etc. How “high fat” the meal is will depend on the tolerance of the individual animal with some being very sensitive to even the slightest amount of fat. Other causes of pancreatitis include trauma, infectious agents or blockage of the pancreatic duct.

Obese dogs, dogs with other diseases or those taking certain medications may be at higher risk. Often animals who have been diagnosed previously with pancreatitis will be at increased risk of recurrence. Pancreatitis can be mild to severe and in some cases can be fatal.

Symptoms:

Symptoms of pancreatitis vary from mild and just a bit off-colour to severe vomiting, lethargy, collapse and abdominal pain.

Treatment:

Treatment will vary depending on the individual case. In acute cases, hospitalisation is required to provide IV fluids, pain relief and supportive care. Food is withheld for a period of time (usually 24-48 hours) to stop stimulation of the pancreas and to reduce vomiting.

After this, food is introduced gradually starting with carbohydrates then a low fat protein source. During the immediate recovery period we avoid high protein and high fat foods. Our recommendation is feeding a prescription diet for pancreatitis such as Hills i/D, Royal Canin GI Low fat or boiled skinless chicken breast and rice (cut up chicken breast, place in a big saucepan with rice and boil the whole lot until soft). Feed this low fat diet for 7 days, then gradually reintroduce your dog's normal diet over a period of 5-7 days (mix $\frac{1}{4}$ original food with $\frac{3}{4}$ low fat, then half of each, then $\frac{3}{4}$ original with $\frac{1}{4}$ low fat, then 100% original food).

Longer term management, particularly for repeat offenders, involves a low fat diet such as Royal Canin GI Low Fat or Hills i/D. These products have a fat content of around 22%-27%. If you are continuing to feed your usual brand of food look for a light version or the lowest fat option. Food

such as bones, pigs' ears, fatty off-cuts and dental treats should be avoided or trialled carefully to minimise the risk of recurrence.

If you have any concerns or queries about your animal's condition please do not hesitate to contact us on 03 5721 4000