

Tips of transitioning food

There are things you can do to help your pet adjust to their new diet. Generally, introduce any new food over a 7 day period for dogs and 4 weeks for cats. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed. This is especially important for a prescription used to treat a compromised digestive tract.

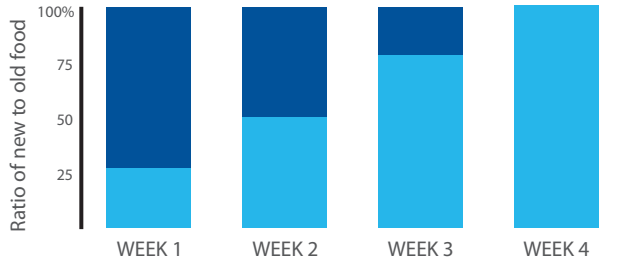
If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait 10 minutes before serving).

Feed only the recommended food

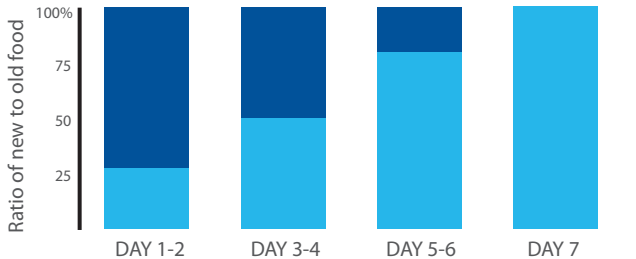
Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the treatment's success and the health of your pet depend on strict adherence to their new diet to a large degree.



CATS: Transition to a new diet in 4 weeks



DOGS: Transition to a new diet in 7 days



ACUTE PANCREATITIS

YOUR ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

**Acute
pancreatitis is
a serious, life-
threatening
inflammation of
the pancreas**



It can occur in cats but is more common in middle-aged and overweight female dogs. It can be treated with support from us, medications and a special diet.

What is it?

The pancreas is a gland found in your pet's body near the stomach and small intestine. It produces hormones that are important for regulating your pet's blood sugar level. It also produces enzymes that digest food. Acute pancreatitis occurs when these enzymes begin to digest the pancreas gland itself.



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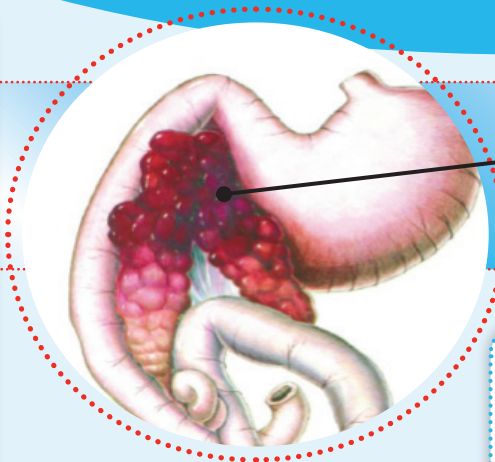
How do I know if my pet has acute pancreatitis?

Abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea can be signs of acute pancreatitis. If your pet is overweight and has had a history of poor health, they are more at risk of developing the condition. We can diagnose the illness after examining your animal and talking to you about their medical history and diet. It may be necessary for us to take blood samples from your pet, ultrasounds and a biopsy of their pancreas before the diagnosis can be confirmed.

Typical causes

Several factors contribute to the illness and cause the pancreas to digest itself. Pets that eat fatty foods usually have blood with a high fat content. This can cause pancreatitis. Often, the history of many pets with acute pancreatitis includes eating a fatty meal, such as food scraps, before they become physically unwell.

Other contributing factors include obesity, bacterial and viral infections, trauma, certain medications, kidney failure and immune disease in which the body attacks its own tissues.



swollen, inflamed pancreas with areas of hemorrhage

Nutritional plan

Maintaining a well-balanced, healthy diet will contribute to your pet's long term recovery from acute pancreatitis.

We will recommend a special food based on their age, body condition and blood fat content, taking into consideration any other illnesses or disease. Normal weight dogs with acute pancreatitis may benefit from foods that contain highly digestible ingredients and a low level of fat to stimulate the pancreas. We may also recommend a weight reduction programme for your pet. Special foods can help to provide the low fat, low calorie nutrition necessary to achieve weight loss.

Under no circumstances should your pet be fed treats that are high in fat

Diagnosis

Many cases of acute pancreatitis are difficult to diagnose. Therefore, the dietary history you provide us is very important. We need to know if your pet has access to garbage, spoiled food or is fed table scraps. If we suspect acute pancreatitis, we will perform a thorough physical examination of your pet and take blood for analysis. We may also order radiographs or an ultrasound of your pet's abdomen and obtain a biopsy of their pancreas as well.

Treatment

One of our priorities will be to ensure your pet is properly hydrated. Hospitalisation is necessary while we administer intravenous fluids. We may give your pet certain medications to help manage pancreatitis. These may include drugs to relieve abdominal pain, prevent vomiting or antibiotics to treat or prevent pancreatic infections or abscesses.

How can you help?

At home, it will be up to you as your pet's owner to give them all their prescribed medications and ensure they follow a strict diet. It's critical that your pet is not exposed to foods that are high in fat or contribute to obesity. This means making sure your pet has zero access to table scraps, bones and animal fat.