

# **Pancreatitis**

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## **Overview**

Pancreatitis results from sudden inflammation of the pancreas and is characterized by activation of pancreatic enzymes that can cause the pancreas to begin digesting itself.

The cause of pancreatitis is poorly understood. Predisposing causes include obesity, high fat diet, liver disease, infection and recent abdominal surgery. For unknown reasons, miniature schnauzers tend to be predisposed to pancreatitis.

Pancreatitis can range in severity from mild to life-threatening. The body's reaction to the inflammation often determines the severity and prognosis. Recurrent bouts of pancreatitis can lead to chronic pancreatitis and may contribute to other disorders such as diabetes mellitus or exocrine pancreatic insufficiency.

## **Diagnosis and Treatment Notes:**

- Pancreatitis is generally diagnosed by a thorough history, physical examination and bloodwork. Abdominal x-rays and abdominal ultrasound may also be recommended.
- Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, your individual pet, and your veterinarian. Pets with pancreatitis are treated with fluids, antibiotics, pain medication and a special diet. In some cases, surgery may be necessary. Discuss treatment details when your pet is diagnosed with this condition.

## **What to Watch for\*:**

- Vomiting
- Poor appetite
- Lethargy
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Weakness

*\*Please notify us if you notice any of the above signs or if you have any questions!*

