

FORBES VETERINARY CLINIC

PANCREATITIS IN CATS

**A painful inflammation
of the pancreas.**

Pancreatitis occurs when the pancreas becomes inflamed, causing digestive upset and pain. It can range from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be life-threatening.

**Early recognition and treatment
can make a big difference.**



Pancreatitis
can be serious.
If your cat is unwell,
don't wait – contact
us straight away.

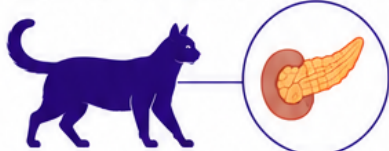


WHAT IS PANCREATITIS?

The pancreas produces enzymes that help with digestion and hormones (like insulin) that regulate blood sugar. When the pancreas becomes inflamed, these enzymes can start to damage the pancreas and surrounding tissues.

Common causes include:

- Obesity
- High fat diet
- Certain medications
- Diabetes mellitus
- Hyperthyroidism
- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Infectious diseases
- Trauma or stress
- Idiopathic (unknown cause)



SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- Vomiting
- Poor appetite or refusing food
- Lethargy or weakness
- Dehydration
- Diarrhoea (sometimes)
- Abdominal pain (cat may crouch, hide, or be reluctant to move)
- Fever
- Weight loss
- In severe cases – shock or collapse



Signs can be mild at first but can worsen quickly. Seek veterinary attention if you are concerned.



DIAGNOSIS

Your veterinarian will take a full history and perform an examination. Tests may include:



Blood tests

To look for inflammation, increased pancreatic enzymes (Spec fPL), and effects on other organs.



Ultrasound

To assess the pancreas and look for changes in surrounding organs.



Additional tests

To rule out other causes of vomiting and abdominal pain.



A combination of history, clinical signs and test results is used to diagnose pancreatitis.



TREATMENT

Treatment depends on the severity of your cat's condition and is often provided in hospital.

- ✓ Fluid therapy to correct dehydration
- ✓ Medications for nausea and vomiting
- ✓ Pain relief
- ✓ Medications to reduce inflammation
- ✓ Nutritional support – your cat may need careful, appetite-stimulating diets
- ✓ Treatment of any underlying cause
- ✓ Monitoring and supportive care



Most cats improve with early veterinary treatment and supportive care. Severe cases may require several days of hospitalisation.



MANAGEMENT AT HOME

Once your cat is stable and home again:

- ✓ Feed small, frequent meals of a low fat, high quality diet as recommended.
- ✓ Follow feeding instructions carefully.
- ✓ Give medications exactly as prescribed.
- ✓ Monitor for any return of signs.
- ✓ Attend all recheck appointments.



Diet and weight management are key to preventing future episodes and supporting overall health.



PREVENTION TIPS



Feed a balanced, high quality, low fat diet.



Maintain a healthy weight.



Avoid high fat foods and table scraps.



Use medications only as prescribed.



Regular veterinary check-ups help identify and manage underlying diseases early.



DID YOU KNOW?

Pancreatitis can occur in some cats. Lifelong management of diet and any underlying conditions, along with regular check-ups, can help reduce the risk of future episodes.



ACT FAST

The sooner pancreatitis is diagnosed and treated, the better the outcome.

If your cat is showing any signs of pancreatitis, contact us today.