

LIVER DISEASE

PET CARE SHEET

The liver is the major organ in the body involved in digestion (processing) of food and the breakdown of waste products. If the liver is damaged harmful chemicals like ammonia build up in the blood stream.

Symptoms of liver disease include

- excessive thirst,
- loss of appetite,
- diarrhoea and vomiting,
- lethargy and confusion.
- In some cases there may be jaundice and a build up of fluid in the abdomen.

Liver damage is caused by a number of diseases including infection, poor circulation (e.g. heart disease) or tumors.

Diagnosis is usually confirmed by blood tests, although sometimes ultrasound, exploratory surgery or liver biopsies are required. Proper treatment and diet can, in some cases lead to complete recovery of the damaged liver.

Treatment may include:

- Specific medication depending on the cause of disease.
- Diet – the correct food is easy for the damaged liver to process, preventing waste product build up and aiding liver recovery. The prescription diets recommended – HILLS LD available for dogs and cats, contain reduced protein of high quality and reduced salt, they are specially formulated to contain all the vitamins and minerals required so that your pet needs only fresh water in addition to the diet. Supermarket or pet shop diets are not suitable for pets with liver disease.

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