



Name: Tequila

Diagnosis : Pancreatitis

PANCREATITIS

What is it??

Pancreatitis occurs when the pancreas is eaten away by the digestive enzymes stored inside specialized storage pockets. This, in turn, causes major inflammation of the organ, which then releases the enzymes into the circulation resulting in severe systemic signs.

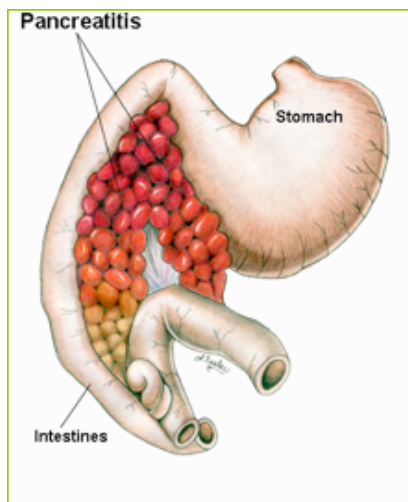
Acute pancreatitis is more commonly seen in dogs, this means that it has a sudden and unexpected onset, whereas chronic pancreatitis is more common in cats where it takes much longer to develop, often alongside an underlying problem.

What are the clinical signs?

In an acute case, the animal usually presents with a high temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, inappetence (leading to anorexia), abdominal pain, tachycardia (fast heart rate), dehydration, shock, collapse and in extreme cases, death. Animals suffering with the chronic type usually appear to have reduced appetite, abdominal pain and weight loss.

Is my pet at risk?

In most cases, it is unknown why it happens; however the causes of pancreatitis can generally be divided into two sub-sections depending on the onset:



Acute pancreatitis:

- – Obesity
- – High-fat diet
- – Pancreatic duct occlusion (blockage)
- – Trauma
- – Surgical manipulation

Chronic pancreatitis:

- – Idiopathic (of unknown cause)
- – Infection
- – Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease)

Mainly seen in cats:

- – Cholangiohepatitis (inflammation of the liver and the bile ducts)
- – Ascending infection
- – Bile duct obstruction

Who's the star in this article?

Meet Tequila, a handsome dog belonging to one of our nurses.

**Tequila's story:**

He is around the age of twelve and has been absolutely fine until his owner found him one evening unable to keep any food down. He seemed to be panting a lot and struggled to settle in one place, both of which can be signs of feeling uncomfortable. He was given an anti emetic injection to stop him from vomiting and feeling sick, hoping that it was just a mere stomach upset.

However the next morning Tequila looked extremely lethargic. He appeared clinically dehydrated; his gums were tacky (sticky) and his skin had a subtle loss of elasticity. His heart rate measured 180 beats per minute (a normal

heart rate for a dog would vary between 60-120 beats per minute depending on their breed), which is often a clinical sign of pain.

He sat patiently for various blood samples to be taken, one of which showed raised lipase enzyme 5702U/L (range 200-1800 U/L) and off scale amylase of over 2500 U/L (range 200-1800U/L):

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| GLU | 5.36 | nmol/L | 3.89 | 7.95 | |
| UREA | 4.6 | nmol/L | 2.5 | 9.6 | |
| CREA | 87 | nmol/L | 44 | 159 | |
| BUN/CREA | 13 | | | | |
| PHOS | 1.52 | nmol/L | 0.81 | 2.20 | |
| CA | 2.66 | nmol/L | 1.96 | 3.00 | |
| FP | 73 | g/L | 52 | 82 | |
| ALB | 34 | g/L | 22 | 39 | |
| GLOB | 39 | g/L | 25 | 45 | |
| ALB/GLOB | 0.9 | | | | |
| ALT | 44 | U/L | 10 | 100 | |
| ALP* | 240 | U/L | 23 | 212 | ***HIGH*** |
| GGT | 3 | U/L | 0 | 7 | |
| TRIL | 8 | nmol/L | 0 | 15 | |
| CHOL | 5.75 | nmol/L | 2.84 | 9.25 | |
| AMYL | > 2500 | U/L | 500 | 1500 | Result greater than range |
| LIPA | 5702 | U/L | 200 | 1800 | ***HIGH*** |
| Na | 151 | nmol/L | 144 | 160 | |
| K | 4.3 | nmol/L | 3.5 | 5.8 | |
| Na/K | 35 | | | | |
| Cl | 116 | nmol/L | 109 | 122 | |
| Sum Calc | 299 | nmol/kg | | | |

Both of these enzymes are released by the exocrine part of the pancreas. As mentioned above, when the pancreas becomes inflamed it begins to release its contents into the bloodstream.

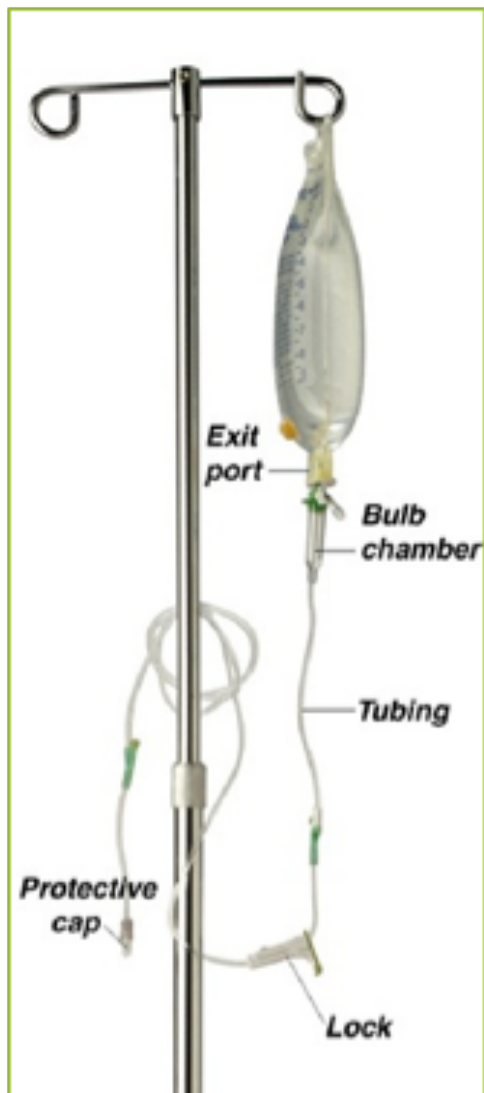
An additional blood test was then requested from our external laboratory to confirm that it was indeed pancreatitis we were dealing with. These were the results:

| Animal: Tequila | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Analyte | Result | Units | Low Range | High Range | Notes |
| Lab Ref: 1002251208 | | | | | |
| Default | | | | | |
| Printable format | \3087.xml | | | | |
| Canine SpecPL | >1000 | ug/L | | | ***HIGH*** |
| Comment | The canine SpecPL result is consistent with inflammatory pancreatic disease. | | | | |
| | Results approved by: | | | | |
| | Federico Sacchini MVB DipSCPCA MPhil | | | | |
| | DipRCPath DipECVCP MRCVS | | | | |
| | Head of Clinical Pathology UK | | | | |

How was he treated?

Tequila was treated with intravenous fluid therapy, strong pain relief, more anti sickness medication and antibiotics. Food and water were withheld until the vomiting has ceased and his appetite returned. He continued with the antibiotics at home and got plenty of affection to keep his spirits up.

To this day the reason behind Tequila's sudden onset of pancreatitis is unknown. He has been on a steady diet for years, goes on long walks to keep his waistline trim and has not experienced any trauma. So far following his treatment there has been no recurrence of his condition, and for Tequila's sake, he is hoping never to have to see the Vets for anything serious again.



Written by:

Manuela Lianne Williams RVN, Tequila's owner.