

## Liver Disease

You will now have been informed by the veterinary surgeon that your pet has unfortunately been diagnosed with Liver Disease. The term 'Liver Disease' covers a wide range of conditions in which the liver functions less efficiently than normal. Many liver disorders result in inflammation, referred to as hepatitis. Severe prolonged inflammation, if untreated, may cause healthy liver cells to be replaced by scar tissue. Diseases elsewhere in the body can also impair the Liver's function. The treatment protocol varies, depending upon the severity of the disease and any complications, but we hope this sheet will explain what can be done to ensure quality of life for your pet.

### Diet

The Veterinary Surgeon may have discussed feeding a prescription 'liver' diet, we recommend "Hills L-D". The benefits of a liver diet are :

Properties	Benefit
Reduced protein levels	Reduces workload on liver
Specially selected amino acids	Reduces accumulation of ammonia (toxic to body) and consequent nervous system signs. Helps healing and regeneration of liver tissue
Increased Vitamin K and Zinc	Avoids deficiencies common in liver disease
Supplemented L-Carnitine	Helps improve fat metabolism to limit 'fatty liver'
Reduced sodium	Limits ascites (fluid accumulation)
Added superior antioxidant formula	Reduces oxidative cell damage which correlates with severity of liver disease

Hills L-D diet is available in tinned form or in biscuit form. Animals with liver disease can be inappetent, warming the food increases the aroma and can help encourage eating. When changing onto a liver diet the transition should be done gradually over a 5-7 day period to help with acceptance of the diet.

### Medication

Hepatosyl - Some animals with Liver disease may be prescribed Hepatosyl, these are capsules, which provide the macronutrients that are essential for liver cell function.

### Check Ups

After the initial diagnosis your pet will be checked two weeks later, and then every two months (dependant on severity of case).

The following parameters may be assessed at each check up.

Test	Reason
Bodyweight	To ensure calorific needs are being met
ALT, ALKP	These are the blood enzymes that are raised with liver disease.
Bile acid	This assesses the liver function
Albumin	Low levels occur with liver failure

Testing these parameters at check ups will enable us to monitor how the disease is progressing, how effective the medical management is, and if any adjustments to the treatment protocol are necessary.

**If you would like to make an appointment or require further information please contact us at Brayton 01757 705562 or Sherburn-in-Elmet 01977 684952.**