

A Dog Owner's Guide:

Pancreatitis



What Causes Pancreatitis?

The pancreas is an organ in the abdomen located between the small intestine and the liver. Its two primary functions are to produce and regulate the release of insulin, a hormone that controls the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood, and to produce and store enzymes necessary for food digestion.

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas that can make your dog very sick. If not managed, it can lead to dehydration, organ damage, and, if chronic, diabetes mellitus. In severe cases, it may even cause death.

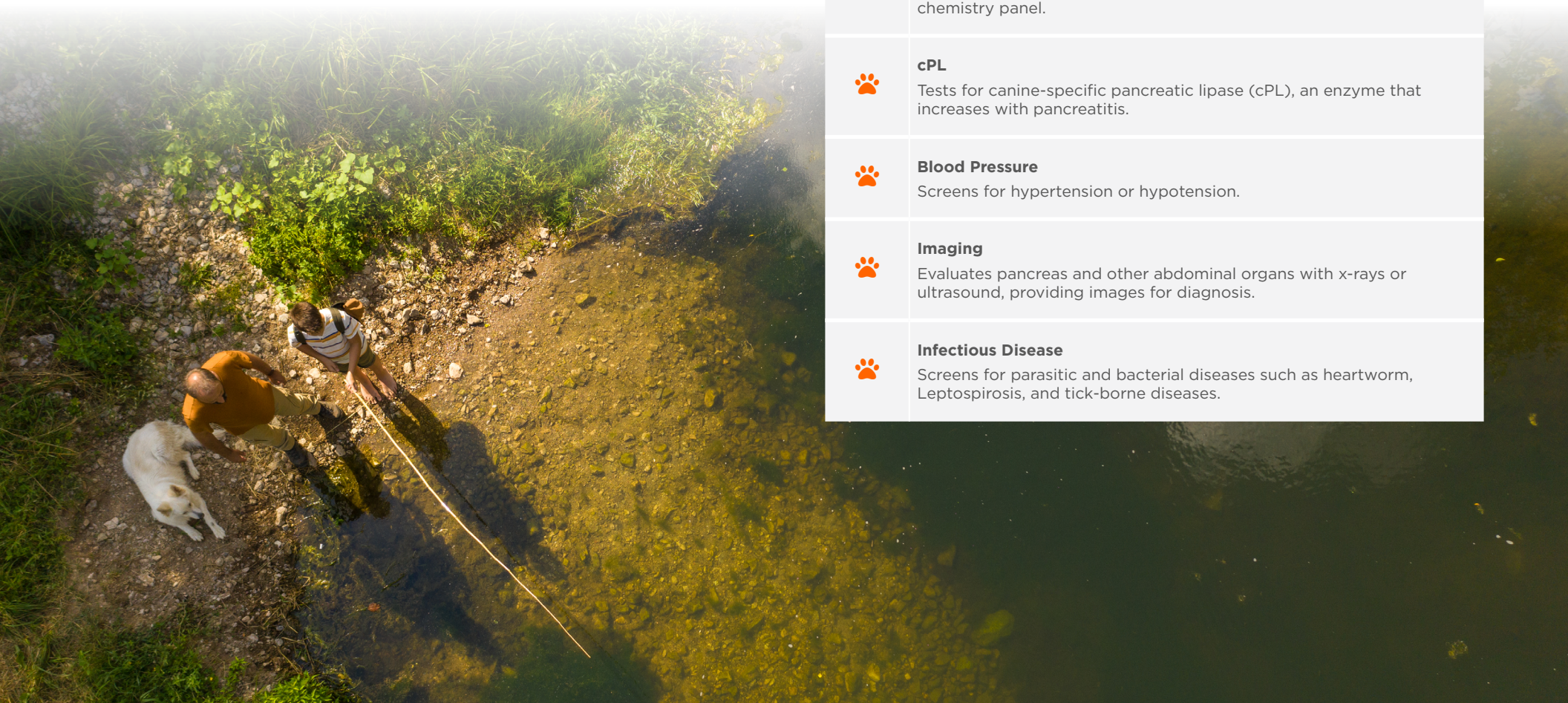
Inflammation occurs because of too many digestive enzymes being produced at the same time. Contributing factors include an inappropriate diet or ingestion of human food, medications, and breed predisposition. Many times, a cause is undetermined.

Diagnosing Pancreatitis

In many cases, a combination of physical examination, lab testing, and abdominal imaging must be used together to diagnose pancreatitis.

Your veterinarian may recommend some or all of the following tests:

	Chemistry Panel Provides information on several organ systems, important proteins, and electrolytes that can be affected by pancreatitis.
	Complete Blood Count (CBC) Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anemia, inflammation and platelets involved in blood clotting.
	Urinalysis Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.
	cPL Tests for canine-specific pancreatic lipase (cPL), an enzyme that increases with pancreatitis.
	Blood Pressure Screens for hypertension or hypotension.
	Imaging Evaluates pancreas and other abdominal organs with x-rays or ultrasound, providing images for diagnosis.
	Infectious Disease Screens for parasitic and bacterial diseases such as heartworm, Leptospirosis, and tick-borne diseases.



Clinical Signs

Case severity can range from mild to severe.

If your dog exhibits one or more of the following signs, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for evaluation.



Treatment for Pancreatitis

Rehydration with intravenous fluids is a common treatment for pancreatitis in dogs and is administered during hospitalization. Anti-vomiting and anti-diarrheal medications can also be used to treat symptoms. Pancreatitis is a painful condition and pain medications can help keep your dog comfortable.

Recovering dogs are fed a bland, fat-restricted diet for several weeks before gradually returning to their normal regimen. Some veterinarians may recommend that you keep your dog on this special long-term diet.





Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Dog

Your veterinarian will be able to detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic testing designed for your dog. Diagnostic testing is also used to establish a biometric baseline to closely monitor your dog's health.

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your dog's health.

Schedule Regular Visits

Routine visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes and receive tips for at-home care.

Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic testing

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT TODAY!

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