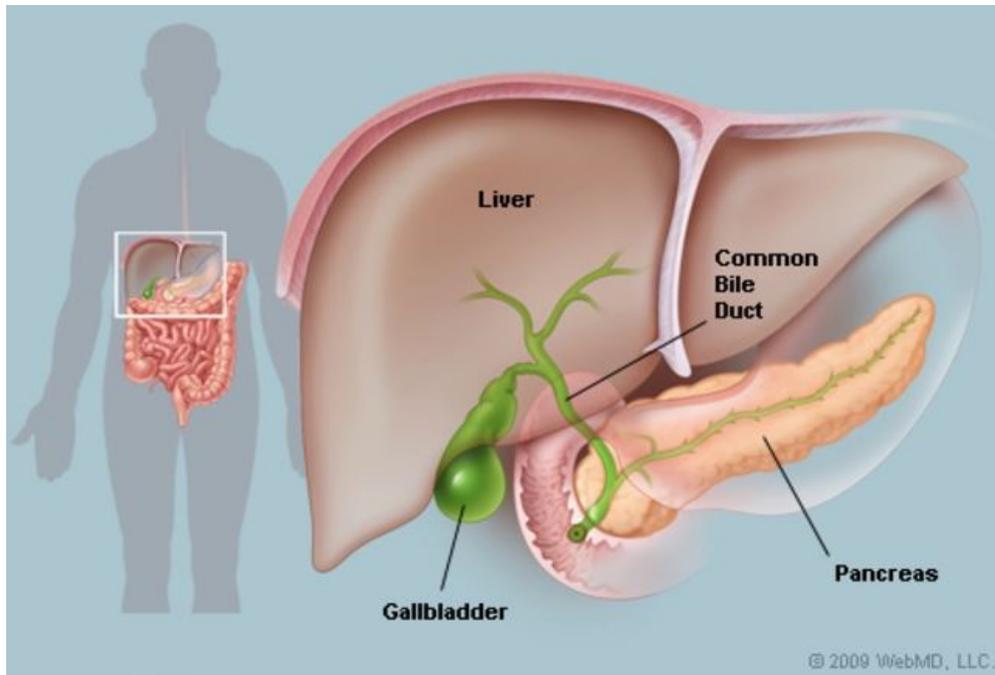
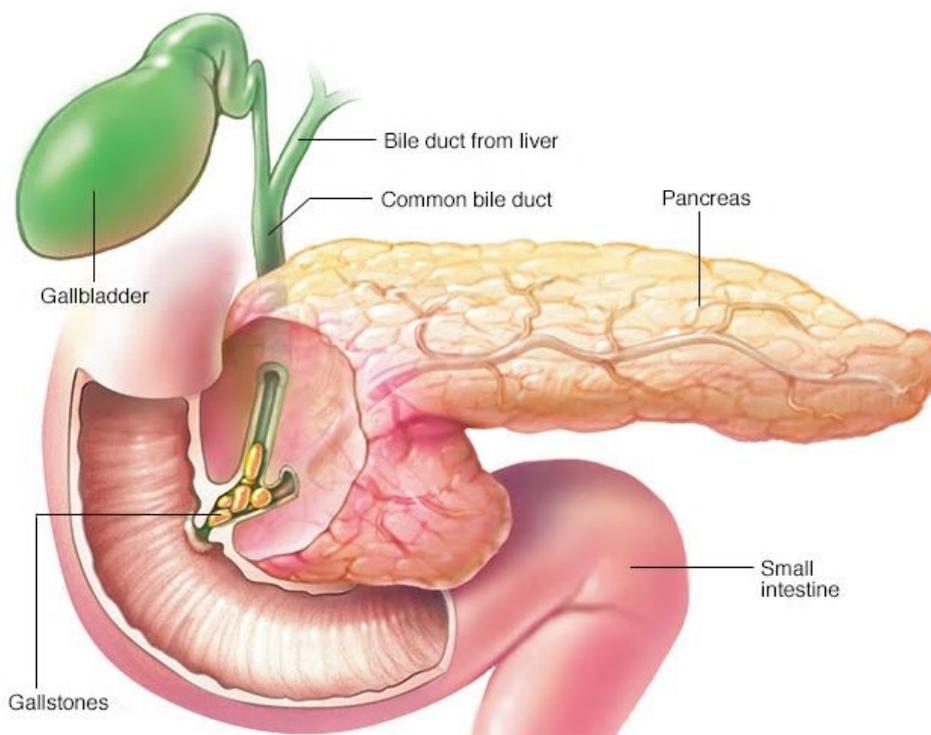


BORDER TERRIER GALLBLADDER MUCOCELE

Liz Hennel put this together for the group to press home the connection between the gall bladder and pancreas, so here is a diagram below. This is a healthy picture.



You can see how the gall bladder and pancreas share a duct (tube) that opens into the gut. If one of the two organs becomes inflamed (and there may be several reasons for that) then there will be swelling of that organs' own duct, prior to the shared duct, which, if severe, can spread and cause problems for the other duct.



This second diagram (left) shows what can happen if the shared, or common, duct gets blocked - in this case, it is gall stones - but for Borders it is usually sludge! The blockage will cause inflammation, which causes swelling, which causes back pressure on the gall bladder and pancreas, which causes pain, haywire blood tests - etc, etc...and a VERY poorly Border.

Pancreas: An introduction

1/17/2019

What is the Pancreas?

The pancreas is a small organ that sits just below the stomach, tucked into a bend in the small intestine. It is an accessory organ of the gastrointestinal system and has both endocrine and exocrine properties.

Exocrine means the body uses series of ducts to excrete things outside of the body, like sweat.

Endocrine means the body secretes hormones directly into the blood stream, like insulin

What makes a liver sick?

11/29/18

The central organ for so much in the body: the liver.

As long as the liver is happy, the body can continue to function without issues.

Unfortunately, there are many reasons for the liver to become sick, so let's take a few moments to talk about some of the reasons why this can happen. In future posts, we will dive into these reasons a bit further.

Let's dive in...

There are several causes of liver disease that can be seen throughout your pet's life. The most prevalent categories of liver disease are as follows: infectious, inflammatory, metabolic, toxins and trauma.

Topic of the week: GallBladder

10/18/2018

Comments

A little organ tucked in that helps with digestion

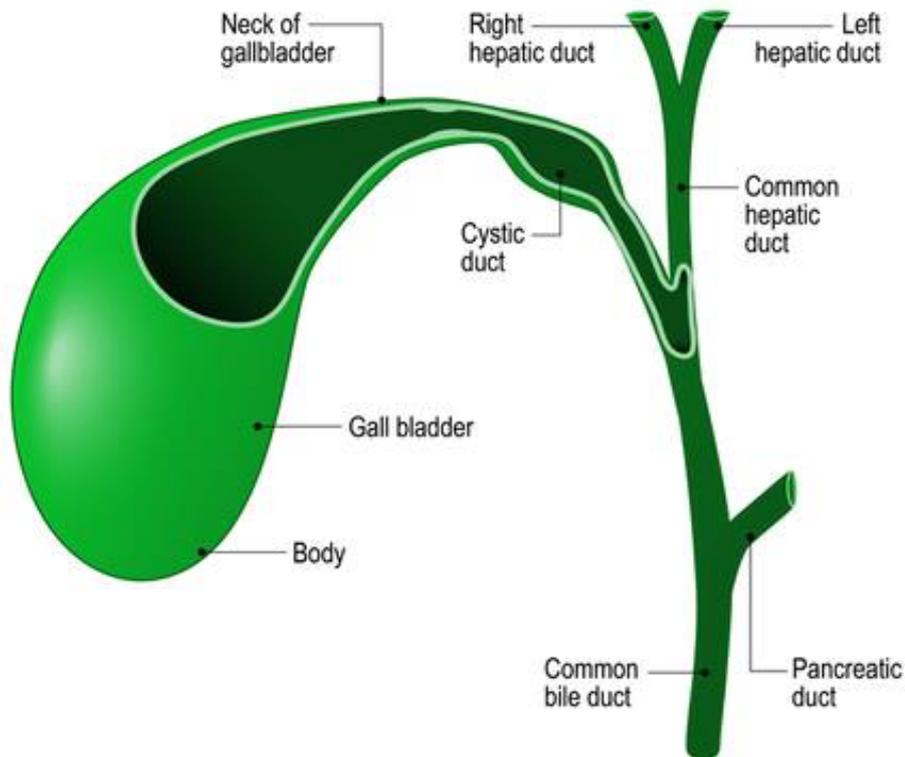
Nestled between the lobes of the liver, lies the gallbladder. It serves as a reservoir for bile. As the liver produces the bile, it moves through canals (called canaliculi) through the liver until it travels through the hepatic duct and into the gallbladder. Once food has entered the stomach, a chemical cue stimulates the gallbladder to release the bile. The bile flows from the gallbladder through the common bile duct and is secreted into the stomach to facilitate digestion of the meal.

The gallbladder is part of the gastrointestinal system and is important in digesting food.

Occasionally, problems can arise! Problems can stem from obstructions, neoplasia (cancer), or stones, to name a few. Obstructions can be caused by an inflamed and swollen pancreas (pancreatitis) compressing the common bile duct, gall stones blocking the duct completely, or cancer. Or, the bile itself can become too thick to travel through the common bile duct and can back up in the gallbladder itself and cause pain and discomfort. Sometimes the bile can become a mucous ball that does not leave the gallbladder, this is called a mucocele and can be an emergency situation.

Addressing problems affecting the gallbladder quickly is important because if they are left untreated, they can cause serious complications. If you notice your pet not eating as well

THE GALLBLADDER



as they used to, vomiting, or if your pets skin, eyes or gums begin to turn yellow, please seek veterinary care immediately.

If your veterinarian recommends removal of your pets gallbladder, do not fret! Cats and dogs can live long and healthy lives without it and not suffer any complications!

Author

Ashley DiPrete, RVT, VTS (SAIM) is a Registered Veterinary Technician practicing in California and obtained her Veterinary Technician Specialty in Small Animal Internal Medicine in 2016. She is the co-founder and a contributing author for InternalMedicineForPetParents.com. Visit her author page here.

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Most of the information on this site is free for you to read, watch or listen to, but Internal Medicine for Pet Parents is also a business.

For reference, this is what happened to Kait Ballantyne and Gill Paxman's darling Radish before he was rushed to surgery...

Kait said, "I have been asked what are the symptoms of gall bladder mucocele.

Radish was limping on a front leg! We thought he had pulled a muscle. We took him to the vet that eve; he just wasn't 'right'.

Over night he was vomiting and very flat. Vet prescribed anti sickness and tummy meds. That evening Radish was sick and the contents were froth and the most stringy mucus I have ever seen. He then collapsed and was rushed into hospital where an ultrasound scan diagnosed a gallbladder mucocele with free fluid. The free fluid was leaking contents from the gallbladder.

The day before Radish got sick he was playing and running and absolutely normal."

An important item to press home with your Vets is that even though gallbladder mucocele is rare, figures from The Willows show that out of all the dogs across the country presenting with this, 60% are Border Terriers. It is not an issue in other breeds. If you have a Border Terrier displaying symptoms similar to Radish's mentioned above, **get them scanned.**

Having the ultrasound can identify gallbladder mucocele which means the operation to remove the gallbladder can happen before it ruptures so the operation is far more strait forward. Dogs can live long healthy lives without one, whereas if the rupture and leak leading to peritonitis it's a much more serious experience which is what happened to Radish.

NOTE: This pdf was put together as support for Border Terrier owners and others who are concerned their beloved dog may have this condition. Kait Ballantyne and Gill Paxman created the group BORDER TERRIER GALLBLADDER MUCOCELE to spread the word of this little known illness to help one another. This document is not a medical document. It is not intended to advise but to share information and similar symptoms that others may want to bring to their Vets if their pets are unwell as this is an unusual condition which seems to happen more to Border Terriers than other breeds.