The recommened diet
Royal Canin Canine Hepatic diet provides nutritional support of liver function in the management of dogs with liver disease. This diet is designed for pets with special needs and is available only from your veterinary practice. Royal Canin Canine Hepatic diet should be the sole source of food unless otherwise indicated by your veterinary surgeon.

A specific diet for your pet
Liver disease is a relatively common problem in dogs and occasionally seen in cats. Royal Canin Hepatic diet is a highly palatable complete diet for the dietary support of dogs with chronic liver disease and insufficiency.

For adult dogs, the diet is formulated to:
- Provide energy and nutrients to support the pet and its liver function
- Provide the nutrients needed for support of liver cells
- Reduce the toxins produced by metabolism of proteins
- Limit absorption of toxins from the large intestine

Dietary modification can significantly reduce the level of toxins to which the liver cells (hepatocytes) are exposed.

The liver performs many vital functions in the body and is important for:
- Nutrient digestion and metabolism of:
  - Proteins
  - Fats
  - Carbohydrates
  - Certain vitamins and minerals
- Neutralising and excreting toxins
- The blood and clotting system
- Hormone balance

Changing your pet's diet
Changing your pet's diet should always be carried out over several days. It is not uncommon for pets to refuse a new diet or to suffer from stomach upsets if the change is not gradual. On day 1, begin by adding a small amount of the new diet to your pet's existing food. As each day passes, add more of the new diet to less of the original food, until eventually you are only feeding the new diet. This change should take around 5 days.

Royal Canin are leaders in palatability. So confident are we that your pet will enjoy his food that we offer a no quibble, money-back guarantee. Simply return the food to your veterinary practice for a full refund.

Key features
The key features of Royal Canin Canine Hepatic diet are:
- High energy density
- Moderately restricted level of high quality protein
- Moderately restricted fat content
- Highly digestible complex carbohydrates
- Increased levels of soluble and insoluble dietary fibre
- Increased zinc content
- Restricted copper content
- Moderately restricted sodium content
- Enhanced levels of B-complex vitamins
- Enriched with an optimum antioxidant complex

Antioxidants
Royal Canin Canine Hepatic diet is enriched in antioxidants (vitamin E, vitamin C, taurine and lutein) to help maintain health and vitality.

Antioxidant is a general term for different types of nutrients such as vitamins, minerals and other components naturally present in many foods. Antioxidants neutralise the free radicals produced even during normal body metabolism.

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**HEPATIC**

**Nutrition in dogs with liver disease**

**Answers to your questions**

**Is liver disease a serious condition?**
Liver disease can lead to problems with the metabolism and storage of nutrients and the breakdown of their potentially harmful by-products (toxins).

The most important of these toxins is ammonia, which is produced by the bacteria in the large intestine and from the breakdown of protein and then absorbed into the bloodstream. Circulating in the blood, these toxins can cause the nervous system signs known as hepatic encephalopathy. These signs include fits, tremors, excess salivation and headpressing against objects.

**Why are protein and fat moderately restricted in this diet?**
If the protein level is high, the body will produce more ammonia, a toxin which is usually neutralised by the liver. Reducing protein intake reduces ammonia production, reduces workload on the liver and reduces toxin build up. However, if the protein level is too low, your pet will begin to break down his body tissues. Protein is needed to maintain your pet's tissues and to enable regeneration of liver cells. Royal Canin Canine Hepatic diet provides the right level of high quality, highly digestible protein. The fat in the diet is a valuable energy source, enhances palatability, and is at an appropriate level for dogs with certain types of liver disease.

**Why does my dog need complex carbohydrates?**
Complex carbohydrates in the diet can help to slow down digestion and provide a more consistent delivery of glucose from the intestines to the liver, important to help reduce workload on the liver.

**Why does my dog need fibre?**
Dietary fibre helps remove ammonia and other toxins from the intestine via the dog’s stools and also prevents ammonia production by the bacteria in the large intestine.

**Why has zinc been added to the diet?**
To avoid zinc deficiency which is common in liver disease. Zinc is involved in the detoxification of ammonia in the liver and so helps to remove the ammonia which could affect the nervous system. Zinc also displaces copper to avoid the damaging accumulation of copper in liver cells.

**Key benefits**

Royal Canin Hepatic diet has special ingredients to meet the specific needs of your pet. They are:

- **A low copper with increased zinc content minimises copper accumulation in the hepatocytes.**
- **The synergistic antioxidant complex (vitamin E, vitamin C, taurine, lutein) neutralises free radicals and helps support health of hepatocytes.**
- **A limited sodium intake decreases portal hypertension and reduces extravascular water flow.**
- **High energy provided from fat avoids protein catabolism, a risk factor for the onset or progression of hepatic encephalopathy.**

**If you have further questions,** please contact your veterinary practice:

Additional Information:

Next Visit:

**ROYAL CANIN**