



EPI Management for Australian Dogs

Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Managing EPI is all about finding the right balance for **your** dog. Signs vary from dog to dog, however the four main factors for all to address are:

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|-------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| • ENZYMES • | • DIET • | • ANTIBIOTICS • | • B12 • |
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ENZYMES

EPI dogs require **animal derived** enzymes with each meal. In Australia, choose from either commercial pancreatin products or raw pancreas.

Commercial Pancreatin

Product of choice in Australia is CREON®, available in different strengths (10,000, 25,000 & 40,000).

DOSAGE:- Most start with 1 x CREON® 10,000 capsule **per meal** (for toy breeds, 1/2 the dosage) and monitor over one week for weight gain, at which time you can adjust dosage and/or strength upwards if needed. Observation should take into consideration the quality and quantity of stools (refer to Purina's Faecal Scoring System) and whether treatment for SID has begun.

ADMINISTER:- Administering varies from dog to dog, trial and error may be needed to find what best works for your dog. Methods include:-

- Giving the capsule whole placed in the meal, no incubation.
- Breaking open the capsule and sprinkling the CREON® pellets on the food and serve immediately, no incubation.
- Giving capsule whole 5 to 10 minutes or immediately prior to feeding (can hide capsule in some cream cheese or soft meat or dropped straight down throat).
- Giving capsule whole 5 to 10 minutes after serving a meal.

AVAILABLE:- CREON® 10,000 can be purchased from your Vet, online from online-chemists such as at www.chemistwarehouse.com.au or in person at any chemist without a prescription. Higher strengths can also be purchased at chemists or online with a prescription from your Vet.

Raw Pancreas

Raw pancreas is an effective alternative as long as you can find a dependable source. The following are useful considerations:

- Approximately 85g to 115g of RAW beef, lamb or pork pancreas may be used per meal.
- Raw pancreas should be minced or preferably blended in a food processor prior to being added to food.
- Raw pancreas may be frozen in cubes (3 month freezer life) and thawed naturally. NEVER heat as heating will destroy the natural enzymes.
- Raw pancreas potency may vary from one animal host to another or from farm to farm, suppliers and distributors.

DIET

Most EPI dogs do better on a low-fibre (4% or less) grain-free diet or complete 'raw' diet. Until stabilised EPI dogs require **150%** of normal food intake for their breed and age. Smaller sized but more frequent meals are ideal in the early stages to allow the animal's system time to recover and adjust. Unless there is another health concern that requires low fat, EPI dogs (once receiving proper enzymes) should not have fat restricted but rather do better with normal amounts of fat in their diet. EPI dogs often also do well with supplementation of a medium chain triglyceride fat such as coconut oil for healthy skin and coat and fish oil.

ANTIBIOTICS

SID almost always accompanies the initial EPI diagnosis. The current protocol is to give the enzymes a week or two first to see if that is enough support for the gut flora imbalance to correct itself. If after a couple of weeks on enzymes and SID signs (yellowish-colouring to the stools, continued loose/soft stools, intermittent sloppy stools, gelatinous stool coating, flatulence, lack of appetite, stomach noises) are still present then treat with an antibiotic. Tylosin® (Tylan®) is now the drug of choice (see recent research at www.epi4dogs.com). If left untreated, SID can wreck havoc with the EPI treatment plan. A minimum 30 to 45 day/twice daily course of Tylan® is recommended with food, most find success with a 45 day treatment plan. If you do not see any positive results (better poop) within 7-10 days on Tylan®, it is recommended to switch out the Tylan® for Metronidazole® for the remaining 30 days/twice daily.



RECOMMENDED TYLAN® DOSAGE:- • 13KG – 1/8 TSP • 27KG – 1/4 TSP • 41KG – 3/8 TSP • 54KG – 1/2 TSP

Tylan® Soluble 100 may be purchased with a prescription by your vet through their Elanco representative:-
Mfg: Elanco Animal Health (a div of Eli Lilly Australia Pty, Ltd)
112 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW 2114
Telephone toll free: 1-800-226-324

B12



B12 and Folate level should be tested via blood sample, it is ideal your dog be "food" fasted for 12 hours prior to bloods taken. An EPI dog should have a B12 level in the **upper mid-range level**. If B12 injection regimen needs to be implemented, the B12 serum needs to be a simple serum of either cyanocobalamin or hydroxycobalamin delivered by subcutaneous injection until upper mid-levels are achieved. This needs to be followed up with a maintenance program of B12 either by periodic B12 injections or B12 capsules that include the **intrinsic factor** as this will facilitate the oral B12 into the blood stream. The oral product widely used by the EPI community is called Wonderlabs® Trinfac B available online from www.wonderlabs.com in the U.S.A. Shipping can take up to 4 weeks to reach Australia.