

## LIVER

**Portasystemic Shunts** - Congenital, vascular anomaly, it is usually a multiple shunt and can be acquired secondary to pre-existing liver disease. Dogs with multiple shunts are recognised at later age than dogs with single major shunts, most not being recognised before 1-2 years of age. Many of these dogs are very thin, have trouble keeping weight on and get tired very easily.

If concerned, do a paired bile acid blood test, one before a meal and another about 1 hour later. Excessively high post-prandial levels are diagnostic.

**Idiopathic Hepatic Fibrosis** - Young dog predisposition, suggests a congenital or genetic basis. Various types of idiopathic hepatic fibrosis exist; these are non-inflammatory fibrosing diseases whose cause is generally unknown.

Idiopathic hepatic fibrosis is not common, but is probably under diagnosed because of unfamiliarity with the symptoms. It is most common in young dogs, most less than 2 years of age, however some as young as 4 months and as old as 6-7 years may have the disease diagnosed.

The type of fibrosis that shows a marked breed predisposition in the GSD is **Central Perivenous Fibrosis**. The GSD is also over represented in cases of **Pericellular Fibrosis**. There is no sex predisposition. The cause of either of these types of fibrosis is as yet unknown. The young age of affected animals and the marked breed predisposition in the GSD suggests an inherited pattern.

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