

Robinson Veterinary Services

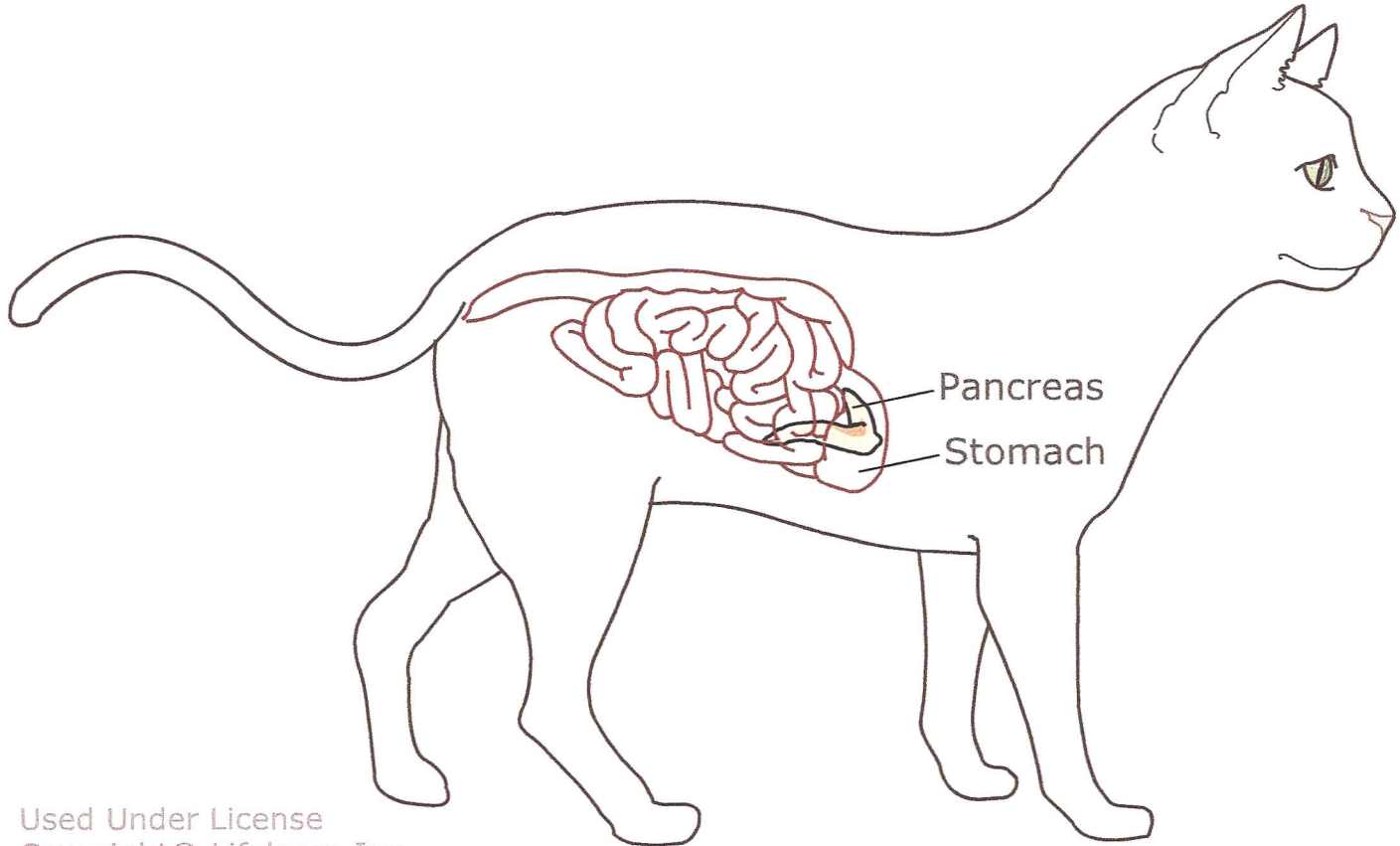
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Pancreas - Cat: Pancreas and general pancreatic conditions.



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The pancreas is located within the abdomen, lying beside the stomach and the upper part of the duodenum. It has one or more ducts that empty into the duodenum. The pancreas produces digestive enzymes and hormones. Pancreatic digestive enzymes are released into the intestines through the pancreatic ducts. Insulin and other hormones are released into the bloodstream where they are carried to the tissues that require them. The most common conditions that involve the pancreas are pancreatic insufficiency, pancreatitis, and insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. Pancreatic insufficiency occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough digestive enzymes. Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas, and can be either an acute or a chronic condition. Insulin dependent diabetes mellitus is an endocrine disorder in which specific pancreatic cells called beta-cells do not produce enough insulin to meet the body's needs. Specific information about individual conditions of the pancreas can be found in our Client Education Handout Series.