



Liver support benefits for the whole-body

As well as detoxifying harmful substances in the blood and having an important role in digestion, the liver is also heavily involved in energy metabolism and immunity.

It's easy to see how keeping your pet's liver healthy is important for all round health but this organ's central role in the body does make it vulnerable to many things that can impair its function.

Situations where the liver may benefit from additional support

- Specific liver disease
- Infection
- Following exposure to food or environmental contaminants
- Inflammation
- · Immune system injury
- Certain drugs (especially those that are required long-term, such as epilepsy or pain medication)

The liver has incredible powers of regeneration and adaptation. When the liver is challenged, these abilities are great for protecting your pet from feeling the strain but it does mean that the liver is often already severely stressed by the time outward signs appear. Blood tests can identify a liver under stress early though, and it is relatively common for routine blood tests (e.g. before an anaesthetic, or as part of regular monitoring) to uncover liver compromise in animals that appear perfectly healthy. Herbal support can help dogs and cats that are at risk or have diagnosed liver compromise by encouraging normal liver function.

Milk thistle has been used for centuries to support the liver. One of its major actions is as an antioxidant, useful for neutralising unstable molecules called free radicals. It also helps to maintain the stability of cell membranes of liver cells and supports specific cells involved in fighting infections (lymphocytes). The main active compound is silymarin, however other compounds found in the fruit, such as linoleic acid, flavenoids, and Vitamin E are thought to have a role to play in supporting the liver, and wider body.





