



Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs

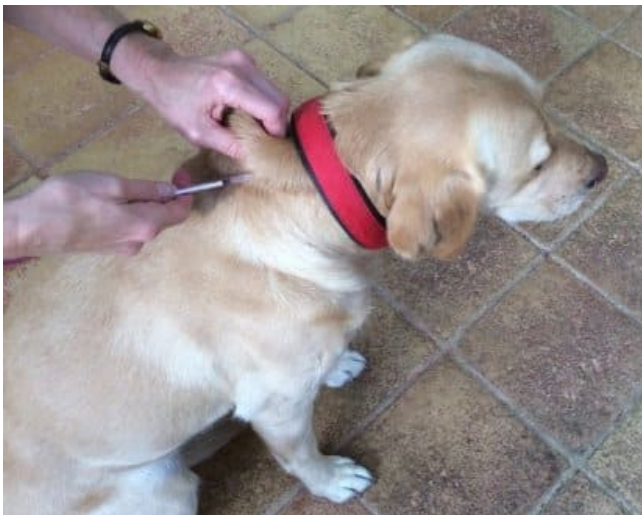


What is Diabetes Mellitus?

In dogs, diabetes mellitus is caused by the failure of the pancreas to produce enough insulin to regulate blood sugar. This is insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (also called Type 1 Diabetes). Dogs with this type of diabetes require insulin injections to stabilize blood sugar levels.

Who is Most at Risk?

- Diabetes can occur at any age, but most commonly dogs are diagnosed around 7-10 years of age.
- Diabetes occurs in female dogs twice as often as male dogs.
- Obesity is a significant risk factor
- Some diseases can predispose a dog to develop diabetes; or can affect the dog's response to treatment of the diabetes:
 - Hyperadrenocorticism
 - Pancreatitis
 - Heart disease
 - Kidney disease
 - UTI's
 - Skin Infections
- Long term use of corticosteroids is a significant risk factor



Symptoms of Diabetes in Dogs

Symptoms of diabetes in dogs can include:

- Increased hunger
- Weight loss (despite increased hunger)
- Increased urination
- Increased drinking

Diagnosis

Early diagnosis of diabetes is essential for a long, healthy life. When a dog is brought to the veterinary office with the signs/symptoms of diabetes, the veterinarian will run a blood test, as well as a urinalysis to check for high levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood, as well as glucose in the urine. Diabetes is the only common disease that will cause the blood glucose level to rise substantially. Once the disease is confirmed, your veterinarian will speak with you about a treatment plan moving forward to ensure the best life/health of your dog.

Treatment + Management

Diabetes is a disease that will require life-long management.

Once your dog has been diagnosed with diabetes, your veterinarian will start them on a low dose of insulin that is to be given twice daily (12 hours apart). After being given the

initial dose for 2 weeks, your dog will need to come in for a blood glucose curve, where their blood sugar will be checked every 2 hours to see if their dose of insulin must be adjusted.

Once the correct dose is achieved, it is recommended that a curve be done every 6 months, sooner if the dog starts displaying symptoms of the diabetes.

Complete management of diabetes consists of special diets, a good fitness routine, and daily insulin injections (given twice daily, every 12 hours). A high fiber diet is often recommended; with daily exercise often recommended, taking the age and general condition of the pet into consideration. Consider spaying intact female dogs that have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Successful treatment of diabetes requires regular vet exams, blood and urine tests, and monitoring your pet's weight, appetite, thirst, and urination.

If your dog starts to display symptoms that the diabetes may not be under control, contact your veterinarian immediately to have the glucose level checked.

Symptoms include: increased thirst, urination, weightloss, and a decreased appetite.

Dogs may develop cataracts as the diabetes progresses.

