

FORBES VETERINARY CLINIC

DIABETES IN DOGS

Diabetes mellitus is a condition where the body cannot properly use glucose for energy.

It occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin or when the body cannot use insulin effectively. With early diagnosis and consistent management, most diabetic dogs can live long, healthy and happy lives.

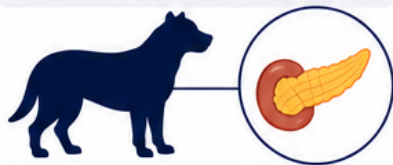


? WHAT IS DIABETES?

Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that helps glucose (sugar) from food enter the cells to produce energy. When the pancreas doesn't make enough insulin, or the body can't use insulin properly, glucose builds up in the blood instead of being used for energy.

Commonly affected dogs:

- 🐾 Middle-aged to older dogs
- 🐾 Overweight dogs
- 🐾 Certain breeds may be at higher risk (e.g. Miniature Schnauzers, Poodles, Dachshunds, Beagles, Keeshonds)



! SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- 🐾 Increased thirst (drinking more than usual)
- 🐾 Increased urination
- 🐾 Increased appetite
- 🐾 Weight loss despite a good appetite
- 🐾 Lethargy or decreased energy
- 🐾 Cloudy eyes (cataracts)
- 🐾 Recurrent infections
- 🐾 Vomiting (in some cases)
- 🐾 Weakness
- 🐾 If severe – collapse

! If you notice any of these signs, especially in combination, contact your veterinarian for advice.

Q DIAGNOSIS

Your veterinarian will take a full history and perform an examination. Tests may include:



Blood tests

To measure blood glucose and assess overall health.



Urinalysis

To check for glucose in the urine and rule out infection or other conditions.



Fructosamine test

Measures average blood glucose levels over the past 2–3 weeks and helps monitor control.



TREATMENT

Treatment focuses on replacing insulin, controlling blood glucose and managing any underlying conditions.

- ✓ Insulin injections are usually required for life.
- ✓ A consistent diet and routine are essential.
- ✓ Regular monitoring and veterinary check-ups help achieve good control.
- ✓ Other medications may be needed for complications or underlying causes.



Never stop or change insulin without veterinary advice. Sudden changes can be dangerous.



MANAGING DIABETES AT HOME

Consistent daily care is the key to stability.

- ✓ Give insulin at the same time every day.
- ✓ Feed a consistent diet at set times.
- ✓ Do not free-feed – feed measured meals.
- ✓ Follow your veterinarian's feeding plan.
- ✓ Monitor your dog for any changes in appetite, thirst, urination or energy.
- ✓ Attend regular recheck appointments and blood/urine tests.
- ✓ Keep a log of insulin doses, meals, water intake, urination and any unusual signs to share with your vet.



Good regulation = happy, healthy dog and fewer long-term complications.



POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

Monitoring and good control help reduce the risk of complications such as:

- Cataracts and vision loss
- Kidney disease
- Nerve damage
- Recurrent urinary tract infections
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) – a serious emergency if insulin is missed



EMERGENCY SIGNS

If your dog is very weak, vomiting, not eating, stumbling, or seems unwell after missing insulin, seek veterinary care immediately.



DID YOU KNOW?



Many diabetic dogs go on to live normal, active lives with the right care and routine. Consistency and communication with your veterinary team are essential. We're here to support you every step of the way.



EVERYDAY MANAGEMENT TIPS



Keep a consistent daily routine.



Feed the right food, right amount, right time.



Give insulin exactly as prescribed.



Keep a log and monitor changes.



Regular vet visits keep your dog on track.