

Pawsitive Press

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Pet Diabetes Month



Pet Diabetes

Could It Be Possible That Your Pet Is Too Sweet? Diabetes and Your Pet

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Chances are, you know of someone who has been affected by diabetes. Did you know that our pets can be affected as well? There are two types of diabetes, Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetes Insipidus. Diabetes Mellitus, or DM, is the most common form. Diabetes Mellitus is a disease where the insulin, which normally controls blood sugar levels in the body, is deficient, leading to elevated sugar levels in the body. If left untreated, it can lead to serious health complications for your pet, including death. Typically, it is a disease that affects older pets but it can be seen in younger pets as well. Love your Miniature Poodle, Schnauzer, Beagle, Cairn Terrier, or Dachshund? Of course you do! But be aware, these canines are at a higher risk of developing diabetes at some point in their lives, with females being twice as likely as males to develop the disease. Male cats who are overweight also carry a



higher likelihood of developing DM as well.

So what signs are you looking for in your furry friend? Most diabetics are diagnosed because the pet owner brings them in when they notice that all of a sudden, their pet is drinking more and urinating more. Sometimes, they will even note that the urine is sticky as it dries. Other signs include extreme increase in appetite, cataracts, and muscular weakness. Diabetes weakens a pet's immune system and makes them more prone to infections, particularly urinary tract infections, since the sugar being excreted in the urine makes a nice place for bacteria to thrive. Diabetes can also have an adverse effect on the organs, including the liver which can swell due to increased fatty deposits. One of the most dangerous outcomes of diabetes can be what is known as a ketoacidotic

crisis where the pet can die because the diabetes has gone unchecked and the body fails.

Diagnosing DM is based on persistently elevated blood sugar levels and the above signs. More specific testing, called a Fructosamine Level, can help determine if blood sugar levels are related to stress or DM. This is a test commonly used in cats as they are more prone to stress induced high blood sugar readings, or stress hyperglycemia. Once a pet is diagnosed with Diabetes, treatment can begin. Diabetes is not an easy disease to treat, it is often expensive during the initial stages of treatment due to the testing that must occur and it can oftentimes be frustrating for veterinarian and pet owner alike. This is why communication is an essential part of trying to achieve a successful outcome. Treatment will usually involve multiple strategies including weight loss if a pet is overweight, dietary changes, and twice-daily insulin injections. Once beginning the insulin, one test that will be run is called a glucose curve where serial sugar readings are taken throughout the day. This test may need to

Diabetes Cont'd

be performed more than once to determine the correct level of insulin for the pet. Incorrect administration of insulin can lead to low blood sugar, or hypoglycemia so figuring out the proper dose is essential to a pet's well-being. Interesting to note, cats, unlike dogs, may be able to achieve remission from diabetes with proper care.

Hopefully, Diabetes is not a disease you will ever encounter with your pet. At home, make sure pets, especially those with a genetic predisposition to develop DM, eat a healthy diet and get plenty of exercise to maintain a healthy weight. For indoor cats, exercise can be a challenge, but exercise can be achieved simply by playing with a laser pointer or placing their food on a counter or elevated area where they have to climb to get to it. Next time Fluffy Puppy is begging for that extra treat, try cutting up some green beans as a healthy snack. Take him for a nice evening walk. He will stay slim and will appreciate that you did your part in trying to avoid giving him insulin injections twice-daily for life. So yes, your pet is the sweetest thing in your life, let's just do our best to make sure they are not too sweet!



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Many Factors Affect Your Pet's Blood Sugar Levels

HIGH BLOOD SUGAR

VETERINARIAN

LOW BLOOD SUGAR

Many factors contribute to levels:

- Exercise
- Diet
- Insulin dosage
- Physical activity
- Stress

Stress, like that caused by a visit to the veterinarian, can cause atypical [or non-routine] blood sugar levels.

HOW SUGAR OR GLUCOSE AND INSULIN WORK TOGETHER

- 1 Stomach changes food into glucose
- 2 Glucose enters the bloodstream
- 3 Pancreas releases insulin into bloodstream
- 4 Insulin carries glucose into cells to be used as energy

Diabetes occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or cells do not absorb insulin properly.

Thanksgiving Pet Safety Tips

Food you CAN feed your pets

- Plain White Turkey Meat
- Sweet Potatoes and Yams
- Canned, Plain Pumpkin
 - Raw Apple (no seeds)
- Steamed Vegetables (green beans or Broccoli)
- Any rice, Brown, White, or Wild



Foods you SHOULD NOT feed your pets

- Turkey skin, drippings, gravy
 - Turkey Twine
 - Turkey Bones
- Corn on the Cob
- Onions and Garlic
 - Mushrooms
- Raisins and Grapes
 - Sage
- Fat Trimmings, Fatty Foods
 - Bread Dough
- Chocolate and Sweets
 - Alcohol

Other Tips:

- Provide toys or treats to entertain pets
- Limit human foods to pet-safe ingredients and small amounts only
- Make sure IDs are on in case a visitor allows an accidental escape
- Know where your closest pet emergency center is in case of problems

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

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First Exam - New Patient

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Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. NL



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-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning

(Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Expires 11/30/17 NL



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Wellness Screen \$130
 (\$40 Savings)

Wellness Screen includes the following: Chemistry, CBC, Heartworm Test, Thyroid Level, Urinalysis, and Microalbuminuria (for cats a Leukemia and FIV test is also included). Call the office to schedule your pets visit today! May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Expires 11/30/17 NL