

DIABETES MELLITUS IN DOGS

HOW DOES MY DOG CONTROL THE LEVELS OF GLUCOSE IN ITS BLOOD?

When your dog has something to eat, their body breaks it down in order to produce energy in the form of glucose. The glucose is then released into the blood. In order for their body to use and absorb glucose from the blood, it requires a hormone called INSULIN. This is produced by an organ called the pancreas. Insulin enables the glucose to be taken out of the blood, and keeps it's levels within the blood at a steady level. When your dog is suffering from Diabetes, they are unable to produce enough insulin. This means that glucose cannot be absorbed by the body and builds up in the blood stream.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS FOR DIABETES MELLITUS?

Most dogs which are diagnosed are between 4 and 14 years old, and usually demonstrate some or all of the following symptoms: drinking more, urinating more, increased appetite and weight loss.



PLEASE ONLY USE INSULIN AND SYRINGES PURCHASED FROM A VETS, AS THEY HAVE SPECIFIC DOSES FOR DOGS. YOU CAN RETURN THE BOTTLES AND NEEDLES TO US FOR DISPOSAL



WHY HAS MY DOG DEVELOPED DIABETES?

There are lots of different reasons why your dog may have developed diabetes. Some of the most common causes are the following : obesity, pancreatitis, certain medications, metabolic disease and immune-mediated disease. These factors will be discussed with you at the time of diagnosis as to how they may relate to your dog.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR DIABETES MELLITUS?

Although the vast majority of canine diabetes cannot be cured, it can be managed by daily insulin injections, a proper diet and consistent exercise. The specific requirements for your dog will be discussed at the time of diagnosis.

WHAT IS DIABETES MELLITUS?

Diabetes Mellitus is a condition that occurs when your dog has more glucose in their blood than normal.

WHAT IS THE LONGTERM PROGNOSIS FOR MY DOG ONCE IT HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED?

The longterm prognosis depends on several main factors, namely the underlying cause of the diabetes and how well the condition is controlled. It is very important that you administer the insulin at the correct times and that you maintain consistency in both your dogs exercise levels and feeding. This will maximise the chance that your dogs glucose will remain stable and minimise any secondary complications.

In the initial phase of the disease we will need to see your dog regularly for repeat blood tests to check the glucose levels in their blood. This is to make sure that they are receiving the correct dosage of insulin.