

# Diabetes Mellitus



## What is Diabetes Mellitus?

Diabetes Mellitus or “Sugar Diabetes” is a metabolic disease that can affect both cats and dogs. Dogs tend to develop diabetes similar to that which is seen in children (Type I), where they have a shortage of insulin production. Cats on the other hand tend to develop diabetes similar to that which is seen in adults (Type II), which may often be controlled by diet alone.

In diabetes, your pet has an unusually high amount of glucose (sugar) circulating in their bloodstream. It is unable to be absorbed by cells where it is used as an energy source for their bodies. This is either due to failure of the pancreas to produce enough insulin (Type I), or the inability of the cells in the body to respond to the elevated glucose amounts (Type II). This lack of glucose uptake into cells, causes your pet's body to believe that it is in a state of starvation, and the body begins to break down sources of protein and fat, for energy. This leads to a loss of body condition and weight loss.

The excessive amount of glucose in the blood is filtered through the kidneys and excreted in the urine, along with large amounts of water. This leads to increased drinking in your pet.

Those at increased risk for diabetes are overweight dogs and cats. Although diabetes is more commonly diagnosed in older animals, it can occur at any age.

## Symptoms of Diabetes

Symptoms of diabetes include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Increased appetite
- Weight loss despite normal appetite

## Treatment of Diabetes

Treatment of Diabetes include:

- Monitoring blood sugar – May be done at home with a glucometer, or at GVS (glucose curves)
- Dietary management
- Insulin injections (Demonstrated at GVS by a Registered Veterinary Technician)

**We can work together to help regulate diabetes in your pet!**

## If Diabetes left untreated...

If diabetes is left untreated it could potentially cause.....

- Cataracts
- Pancreatitis
- Urinary tract infection (due to excess glucose in the urine)
- Seizures
- Organ failure and death

