

## Diabetes in your pet

Diabetes in your pet can be more common than you may realize. It is common in cats and dogs just like in humans. Obese pets are at a higher risk for becoming diabetic. Some breeds are also predisposed to becoming diabetic; such as Miniature Schnauzers, Poodles, Beagles, Labrador Retrievers and Dobermans to name a few.

What is Diabetes? Diabetes is the lack of insulin available to the cells or the cells failure to absorb the insulin that is produced. Some of the signs of Diabetes can include urinating excessively (polyuria), drinking excessively (polydipsia), increased appetite (polyphagia) but losing weight. They can have some or all of these signs at first, other signs that can occur are lethargy and vomiting if the early signs are missed. Early detection of diabetes can potentially save their lives and avoid hospitalization. Your veterinarian will likely want to do blood work and check a urine sample to determine if the signs are of diabetes or another disease process.

As a result of becoming diabetic some cats and dogs can experience an onset of cataracts, although more commonly seen in dogs. Treatment of Diabetes is generally done with insulin injections given under the skin twice a day after a good meal. It is important to not have food out all the time and just feed at meal times, unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian. This is a lifelong treatment and will need to be periodically monitored with frequent visits to your veterinarian.

Shari Camp, RVT  
Greater Cincinnati Veterinary Specialists