



Managing Canine Diabetes Mellitus

Understanding Your Pet's Diagnosis

Diabetes mellitus in dogs is a disorder of **sugar (glucose) metabolism**. It occurs when the **pancreas does not produce enough insulin or stops responding to insulin**, which is necessary for the body to utilize glucose for energy.

While the disease is not curable, it is **highly manageable** and a well-regulated diabetic dog can live a long, happy, and healthy life.



Common Symptoms of Undiagnosed Diabetes

If you noticed any of these before diagnosis, they are typical signs of the condition:

- Excessive water drinking
 - Frequent urination
 - Increased appetite
 - Weight loss
 - Development of cataracts
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Your Pet's Daily Treatment Protocol

The goal of therapy is to keep your pet's blood glucose within an acceptable range and eliminate symptoms. **Consistency is key** to successful management.

1. Insulin Injections

- Treatment involves **twice-daily insulin injections** given just under the skin.
- Your veterinary team will demonstrate the correct technique for administering the injection.
- **Important:** Never repeat an injection, even if you suspect some was lost (e.g., if your pet jumps). Wait until the next scheduled dosage.

2. Diet and Exercise

- The amount of food and exercise should be kept as **consistent as possible** every day.
 - You must **only** feed your pet the medicated/prescribed food.
 - **NEVER** give your pet 'people food' or snacks. These can dangerously disrupt blood sugar regulation.
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Potential Complications and Emergency Plan

1. Insulin Overdose (Hypoglycemia)

The most serious complication is an accidental insulin overdose, which causes blood sugar to drop too low.

Symptom Observed	Immediate Action Required
Weakness (only)	Give 1-2 tsp. of corn syrup per 10 pounds of body weight. Offer food immediately afterward.
Seizures and/or Collapse	Massage corn syrup into the pet's gums (do not try to force them to swallow if unconscious). Call us immediately! Be sure to tell the receptionist your pet is diabetic.

PREPARATION: Please keep **corn syrup** readily accessible at home at all times.

2. Illness or Lack of Appetite

Illness can significantly affect insulin needs. If your pet is sick from a different illness, or refusing to eat:

- **If not eating, but acting normally:** Go ahead and give **half** the usual insulin dose. Wait a few hours and offer food again.
- **If still not eating by the end of the day:** **Do not give any more insulin.** Call us in the morning.
- **If sick or not feeling well (lethargic, vomiting, etc.):** Please **call us right away** before giving any insulin, and tell the receptionist your pet is diabetic.

We Are Here to Help!

Please remember that all diabetic animals are different. Dosage adjustments occasionally may need to be made. Never hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns about your pet's health, appetite, or insulin administration.

Regular communication and follow-up visits are essential for successful, long-term diabetes management.

