Health & Wellness

Is Your Pet at Risk for Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus is a condition that can affect dogs and cats as well as humans. Although diabetes can’t be cured, it can be managed very successfully. There are certain risk factors that can increase the chances of a pet getting diabetes, so it’s important to be familiar with them and keep an eye out.

Risk factors of diabetes in dogs

- Age (dogs that are 5 years old or older)
- Being unspayed for females dogs
- Breeds that appear predisposed to diabetes:
  - Australian Terrier
  - Bichon Frise
  - Cairn Terrier
  - Fox Terrier
  - Keeshond
  - Lhasa Apsos
  - Miniature Poodles
  - Miniature Schnauzer
  - Samoyeds
  - Spitzes
  - Toy poodles
  - Yorkshire Terriers

If your dog has one or more of these risk factors, ask your veterinarian about diabetes testing.

Risk factors of diabetes in cats

- Being neutered
- Obesity
- Age
• Physical inactivity
• Breeds that appear predisposed to diabetes:
  o Burmese cats\(^2\)

If your cat has one or more of these risk factors, ask your veterinarian about diabetes testing.

**Signs of diabetes in cats and dogs**

**Fatigue or weakness**
• Sleeping more than usual
• Acting sluggish or less playful
• Appearing sick or not feeling well
• Poor body or coat condition

**Frequent urination**
• Asking to go out more
• Having accidents in the house
• Litter box requires more frequent changing

**Excessive thirst**
• Drinking water out of the faucet or toilet
• Water bowl requires more frequent refilling

**Weight loss despite increased appetite**
• Eating more but losing or not gaining weight

If your pet is diagnosed with diabetes, don’t panic. With good veterinary support and a glucose monitor, you should be able to provide the right care for your pet and ensure you both many more happy years together.

**Learn more at zoetispetcare.com**