

Pet Diabetes Month, November

Pet Diabetes Month, each November, is an initiative to raise awareness of diabetes in cats and dogs. There are estimated to be half a million undiagnosed diabetic people in the UK – imagine how many pets may also be undiagnosed. This November, make sure your pet is tested for diabetes at your veterinary practice, if he/she is at risk.

To check if your pet should be tested, complete the quick assessment questions inside.

For more information on diabetes, and for a more detailed check of your pet's risk of diabetes, visit the website and complete our online assessment at www.petdiabetesmonth.co.uk



Did you know?

For pets with diabetes that need insulin injections, there is now an injection pen, specially made for pets. The injection pen (called 'VetPen') makes dosing dogs and cats with the small amounts of insulin required quicker, simpler and more accurate.



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More information

If you'd like more information on diabetes, speak to your veterinary practice or visit www.petdiabetesmonth.co.uk



This information is brought to you by MSD Animal Health, manufacturers of Caninsulin.

Further information is available from your veterinary surgeon.
MSD Animal Health, Walton Manor,
Walton, Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ

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Pet Diabetes Month

- could your pet have diabetes?



Complete the diabetes assessment inside to check if your pet is at risk



Do dogs and cats get diabetes?

Unfortunately, like people, pets can develop diabetes (sugar diabetes - full name diabetes mellitus) and the problem is growing. It is estimated that as many as 1 in 200 pets suffer from the condition. Like us, it can often be associated with getting older (cats and dogs over 6 years of age are at most risk), putting on weight and not being active. If left untreated, diabetes can cause serious illness in your pet and even premature death. However, once diagnosed, diabetes in cats and dogs is usually relatively easy to treat and manage.

Early diagnosis is vital - learn the signs to look out for

Like all illnesses, the earlier the problem is diagnosed and treated, the better. Unfortunately, your pet can't tell you how they're feeling. However, diabetic pets often have one or more tell-tale signs to keep an eye out for like excessive thirst, frequent urination, weight loss despite constant hunger, or lethargy.

Signs to look out for:

- Excessive thirst
- Frequent urination
- Weight loss despite constant hunger
- Lethargy



Assess your pet's risk of diabetes

Not all cats and dogs are at the same risk of diabetes – some are at higher risk than others. Answer these four quick questions to assess your pet's risk of diabetes.

Question 1

- **How old is your pet?**

- Five years of age or younger
 Six years of age or older

Question 2

- **Is your pet one of the following breeds?**

- Dogs:
- Cocker Spaniel
 - Dachshund
 - Doberman Pinscher
 - German Shepherd
 - Golden Retriever
 - Labrador Retriever
 - Pomeranian
 - Terrier
 - Toy Poodle
 - Samoyed
 - Husky
 - Miniature Schnauzer
 - Bichon Frise
 - Corgi

- Cats:
- Burmese

- None of the above

Question 3

- **How would you describe your pet's weight?**

- Thin/underweight
 Healthy/normal weight
 Overweight
 Very overweight/obese

Question 4

- **Has your pet shown any of the following signs?**

(please tick all that apply)

- Excessive thirst/drinking a lot of water
 Excessive urination or "accidents" in the house
 Excessive hunger without gaining weight
 Less active/lethargic
 Thinning, dry, and dull hair
 Weight loss
 My pet has not shown any of these signs

Your pet's risk of diabetes

If you have ticked any **RED** boxes, then your pet may be at a higher than average risk of diabetes. The more red boxes you have ticked, the higher your pet's risk. We would recommend having your pet checked for diabetes at the veterinary practice. Please also show them this assessment.

If you have not ticked any red boxes, then your pet is not in a higher risk group for diabetes (based on this simple questionnaire - note there are other factors that may affect your pet's risk of diabetes). Whilst the chance of your pet having diabetes seems low, you may still wish to have your pet tested for peace of mind (as even young, seemingly healthy pets may sometimes develop diabetes).

Don't forget, diabetes can be treated allowing your pet to lead a full and healthy life. Early diagnosis is key.

For further information about diabetes in pets, speak to your veterinary practice staff. For a more detailed version of this assessment, please visit www.petdiabetesmonth.co.uk