

TO YOUR

Pet's

Health

Diabetes IN PETS



Dr. Nicole Porter, DVM

Did you know your pet can develop diabetes? Both dogs and cats can be diagnosed with diabetes, and the numbers being diagnosed are on the rise. November is Pet Diabetes Awareness Month, and a great time to talk about some of the signs of diabetes in pets.

What is diabetes? Diabetes is the body's inability to regulate the amount of glucose, or sugar, in the blood. This can be due to the body not making enough insulin or unable to use the insulin that is produced correctly.

There are several different factors that can predispose your pet to developing diabetes, such as breed, age, gender, genetics, prior health issues like pancreatitis, and your pet's weight. Obesity increases the chances of your pet developing diabetes. Like in humans, maintaining a healthy weight can reduce the chance of developing multiple different issues, diabetes being one of them.

What are some of the clinical signs of diabetes to watch for in your pets? Increased drinking and urination are some of the easily recognized signs. Sometimes it is first noticed when your well trained pooch is having unexplained accidents, or they are asking to go outside with much more frequency. You may notice you are filling the water

bowl more often, or your cat's litter is a lot wetter than normal. More subtle signs may be your pet acts like it is starving, but despite eating ravenously they are starting to lose weight. Cats can develop weakness in their hind legs. Your pet may be less active than normal, or their hair coat is looking dry and dull, and is starting to thin.

If any of these signs are noted, it is worth a conversation with your pet's veterinarian. Some of the tests done to check for and diagnose diabetes are checking the level of glucose (or sugar) in the blood, as well as checking for the presence of glucose in the urine. Normal urine should not have any glucose in it.

If your pet is diagnosed with having diabetes there are many different things that can be done to help regulate your pet. The first is starting insulin, but also diet change, exercise and a healthy weight loss program are often in store.

It may take several months to figure out the right type, amount and frequency of insulin needed to regulate the blood glucose. It will also take time to lose the weight needed and adjust to eating a healthier diet. However, if your pet becomes well regulated, they can continue to live long, happy lives.



Blue River

Veterinary Clinic, P.A.

Small Animal Veterinary Clinic

104 E. Commercial, Waterville
785-363-2222 | bluerivervetclinic.com
info@bluerivervetclinic.com