

and

Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus (DM) in both dogs and cats is a manageable condition requiring committed care by the veterinarian and pet owner¹



+ Common symptoms¹

- Polyuria (excessive urination)
- Polydipsia (excessive thirst)
- Polyphagia (excessive hunger)
- Weight loss
- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Disorientation
- Poor body condition
- Vision problems

Mainly in cats

- Impaired jumping ability & abnormal gait
- Weakness in rear limbs
- Kidney failure

If it goes untreated, animals can develop secondary health problems such as cataracts, urinary tract problems, and possibly coma and even death.²

+ See your veterinarian

1. If you detect any of the symptoms above, see your veterinarian.
2. If diagnosed, your vet will help you understand your pet's diabetes and how to manage it.

+ If your pet is diabetic, the veterinarian will most likely implement:

1. Insulin therapy
2. Adjustment in diet and weight monitoring
3. Exercise when appropriate
4. Other management recommendations

+ Home care

1. Administer insulin as recommended by your veterinarian

Monitor¹ for symptoms

- Return to your veterinarian at the recommended time to ensure proper insulin regulation.

2. Feed a proper diet¹

3. Monitor behavior¹

Is your pet drinking excessively?¹

- Measure the water that is put out and then measure what is left after 12 hours¹

Is your pet urinating excessively?¹

- Is cat box being used more often?
- Is dog needing to be walked more often?
- Are there accidents between the normal times your pet goes out?¹

4. Establish arrangements for care when you are away¹

+ Awareness and education¹

1. Talk to your veterinarian (ask questions!)

- Discuss your pet's body condition
- Ask for nutritional recommendations that focus on your pet's lifestage and lifestyle
- Pay attention to pet food labeling and feeding recommendations
- Determine the right amount of exercise and activity needed for the pet

2. Instead of rewarding with food, train pets with interactive rewards such as playing fetch or chasing a laser pointer.

¹<https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/diabetes-management/diabetes-management-home> (2018)

²<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-diseases> (Information retrieved October 2019)