

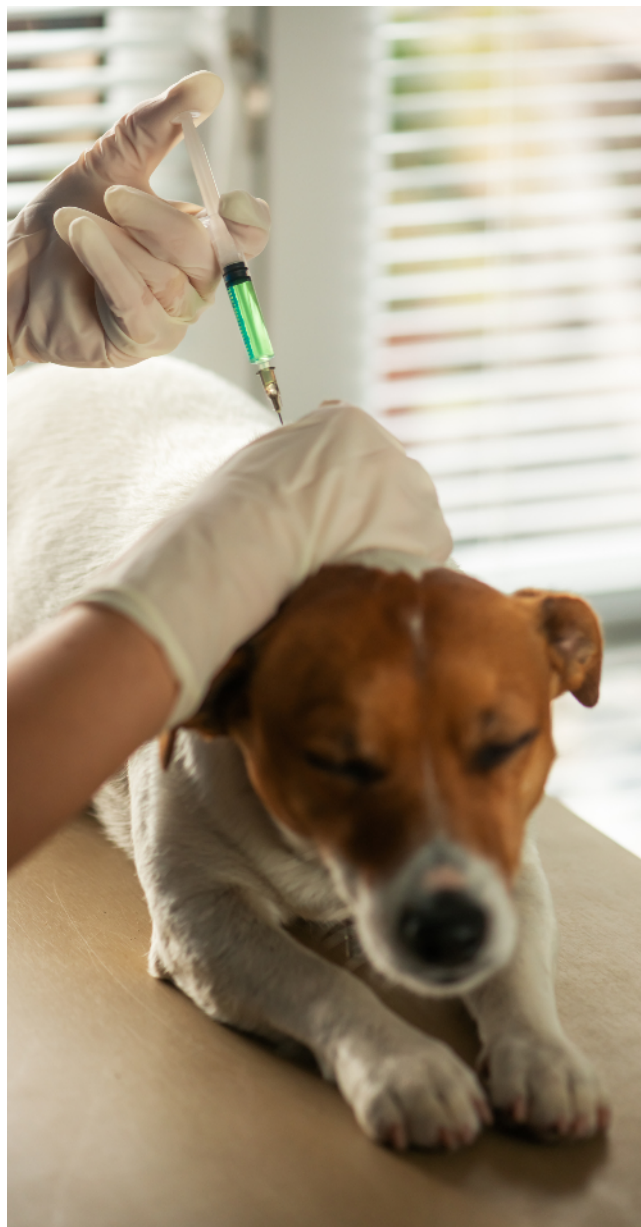
Diabetes Mellitus

Information about Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes is a condition that causes increases in blood glucose which, long term, can be toxic to various parts of the body. Virtually all dogs have type I diabetes which means that they require insulin to be given at regular intervals for the rest of their lives to control their blood glucose. The insulin is normally given by subcutaneous injection into the area around the shoulder blades.

The most important potential adverse effect of insulin therapy is hypoglycaemia (giving too much insulin). If this occurs you will notice your pet may become lethargic/tired, inappetent, weak and if it progresses far enough hypoglycaemia can cause seizures. If you notice any of these signs please contact your veterinarian to get your pet checked, in the meantime, you can place a small amount of honey or glucose/sugar syrup on their gums to allow absorption that will increase their blood sugar levels.

Due to increased glucose levels in the bloodstream, diabetes can result in suppression of the immune system. This can lead to spontaneous infections, most commonly within the bladder due to the high levels of glucose in the urine. It is important to monitor urine production and water consumption as these can be indicators of urinary tract infections. It is important for long term glycemic control that the diet and exercise are kept consistent. Avoid sudden changes in food - both type and volume, as well as longer walks than they are used to as this will upset the glucose levels in the blood and possibly cause hypoglycemic episodes.



If you're concerned your pet has Diabetes Mellitus or has serious vomiting and diarrhoea please seek veterinary attention early. Our team of amazing veterinarians are available 24/7 for any emergencies when your vet is not available. Feel free to call us if you aren't sure you should see a veterinarian or not, and our team can assist you.



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