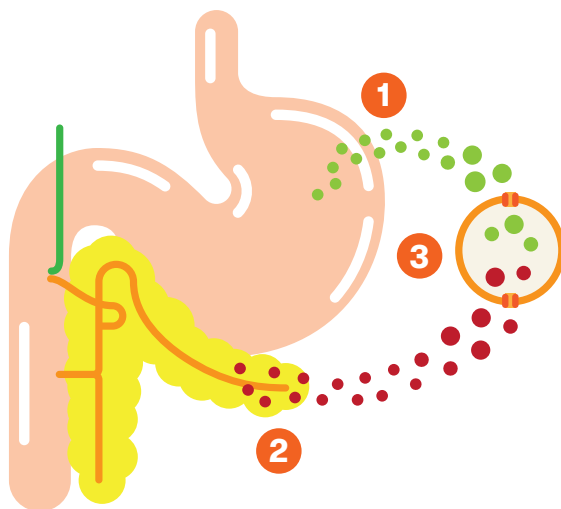


Diabetes mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is a serious disease that requires lifelong treatment and care. It is caused when a pet's body doesn't produce enough insulin to process glucose. This weakens their entire system and makes them vulnerable to many different diseases and complications.

How glucose and insulin work together

1. Stomach turns food into glucose (sugar)
2. Pancreas releases insulin
3. Insulin lets cells absorb sugar for energy



What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Increased water intake
- Increased urination
- Chronic infections

- ▶ Pets with diabetes may develop cataracts, which can cause vision problems or blindness.



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like weight loss
 - Physical exam results
 - Blood and urine tests
- ▶ High blood glucose levels are a warning sign that glucose isn't being moved into the cells that need it to make energy.



How is it treated?

Diabetes mellitus often requires lifelong treatment, regular blood tests, and daily medication and care, including:

- A strict feeding schedule
- Daily insulin injections (as shown by your veterinary team)
- Regular day-long blood glucose monitoring to ensure the correct insulin dose

- ▶ Few pets respond to diet changes and oral medications alone.

How to help your pet



- Follow your pet's insulin schedule and all directions for handling and storing insulin
- Be strict about feeding schedules and ensure that your pet has access to fresh water at all times
- Have the supplies and perform regular full-day blood tests
- Monitor your pet closely and come in for checkups as directed
- Bring your pet in immediately if they show signs of low blood sugar (vomiting, weakness, tremors, collapse)
- Watch your pet for changes in water intake, urination, appetite, or attitude that may indicate unexpected complications
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

