

HVAH

Newsletter

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Diabetes In Your Pet

There are two types of diabetes mellitus seen in veterinary medicine.
Type I DM and Type II DM.

Type I, most commonly seen in dogs, occurs when the body doesn't produce enough insulin, a hormone that is produced by the pancreas. Pets with Type I diabetes will require insulin injections through his/her entire life. Interestingly, female dogs seem to be more likely to develop diabetes, and certain breeds such as Australian Terriers, Schnauzers, Samoyeds, Fox Terriers, Keeshonds, Bichons, Finnish Spitz, Cairn Terriers and Poodles may run a greater risk of developing diabetes.

Type II, more commonly seen in cats, occurs when the body does not use insulin properly, referred to as insulin resistance. Initially, the pancreas makes extra insulin to make up for this. However, over time, it is not able to keep up and make enough to maintain normal glucose levels. Type II will also require insulin injections and monitoring of blood glucose levels. Unlike Type I, Type II is more often seen in male cats, typically between 8-13 years of age.

Signs of diabetes to be aware of can develop very gradually: increased thirst, excessive urination, inappropriate urination, weight loss, increased appetite, lack of energy, urinary tract infections, blindness (primarily seen in dogs), and weakness in rear limbs (seen in cats only).

The treatment for diabetes differs between dogs and cats. Dogs require insulin injections twice daily and careful blood work monitoring. For cats, weight control is huge in managing diabetes, as well as insulin therapy. Cats may go into a state of remission for a period of time and not require insulin but many often relapse later as the disease progresses. Nutritional management is very helpful for both dogs and cats to help maintain steady blood sugar levels. High fiber, low calorie diets can be beneficial in weight loss and delayed absorption of glucose from the intestine. Another approach is use low carbohydrate, high protein diets, but the caloric intake must be monitored as some of these diets are high in calories. Canned food can help in preventing dehydration.

Although rare, birds can also develop diabetes. The good news is that both types of diabetes are manageable and if detected early, pets can live a normal life.

"Meet Our Staff" Spotlight is on ... Tobi



Tobi joined the HVAH family in May, 2012. Tobi is originally from Keymar, MD but now lives in Hampstead with her husband Nick whom she married in 2012 in beautiful Maui. A graduate of Francis Scott Key High School, Tobi attended Carroll County Community College and graduated in 2011 from Cedar Valley College with a veterinary technician degree. In 2012 Tobi passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination, becoming an RVT.

Tobi is very close to her family. Her mother is a nurse and Tobi, along with her two sisters help her father who has been a quadriplegic due to an ATV accident since Tobi was only 11. She is so blessed to still have both sets of grandparents with her.

Tobi's loves consists of a 13 yr. old black lab named "Stormy", and "Sunny" her 7 yr. old yellow lab. Tobi had a very special, close bond with her cat "Potato" as shown in her picture, that she recently lost at a young age of 1 ½.

Tobi loves being outside, and LOVES being at the beach. She walks trails often with "Stormy" & "Sunny". She loves shopping at her favorite store, "Target" and hanging out with her friends. She is an avid O's fan, attending games often. Tobi took up running when she was a freshman in high school, and last August she took part in the Charles Street 12 long distance run for the first time. She hopes to one day run a marathon. She enjoys traveling and hopes to one day make it to California and maybe even Australia. Although she doesn't know if she will spend all her life as a vet tech, she knows she will always have a job that involves animals.

Ever wonder why



When dogs bury bones, they're making an instinctual deposit to protect a future meal or prized possession. Thousands of years ago, scavenging dogs weren't certain where or when their next meal would be. If they scored a big find, they'd hide leftovers for leaner times. Burying food kept it dark and cool, an early version of refrigeration. —

Ernie Ward, DVM

or that...

Did you know ...



- * Ferrets are members of the mink family.
- * An unsprayed female ferret is called a "jill" and a spayed female is called a "sprite". An intact male ferret is called a "hob" and a neutered male is called a "gib". Baby ferrets are called "kits".
- * Ferrets have no inherent fear of humans.
- * A newborn ferret is so small that it can fit into a teaspoon!
- * All ferret kits have white fur at birth.
- * After 6-8 weeks of age, ferrets make very few sounds.
- * The average lifespan of a ferret is 6-7 years.
- * Ferrets like to crawl into small dark places to sleep.
- * Ferrets can sleep up to 20 hrs. per day, and so soundly that they cannot be woken up even when picked up and jostled.
- * A small ferret may be able to squeeze through a hole just over an inch in diameter.
- * Ferrets colors can vary from rich, dark brown with golden highlights to pure white with red eyes.
- * Ferrets are "obligate carnivores", meaning meat eaters. They would not survive without meat because it is part of their natural diet.
- * When a ferret is "flipping on the floor and bouncing off furniture while making chirping or dooking sounds", don't be alarmed. He/she is not attacking you; this means your pet is happy!



Cats knead for two reasons. While settling down to rest, some cats will knead soft places as if to prepare it to lie comfortably. This may be from a time when vegetation would be knocked down to make a safe sleeping place. Kittens knead the queen to help with milk release when they are nursing. Kneading always seems to happen when the cat is comfortable. —Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, DAVBP (feline practice)



Canine Word Scramble

- hfrcfpeinsan _____
- hrotedunto _____
- djoin _____
- lbarroda _____
- fnouxohd _____
- niploalp _____
- ogdadlro _____
- avsilz _____
- kehsipcper _____
- bgeale _____
- vanesahe _____
- anbitte _____
- oteilretrw _____
- ewpthpi _____
- vazuks _____
- tdlniamaa _____
- ftisamf _____
- ncnaaa _____
- fnaewndnodi _____