

A Dog Owner's Guide:

Hypothyroidism



What Causes Hypothyroidism?

Hypothyroidism is one of the most common hormonal diseases in dogs. It occurs when your dog's thyroid gland is not producing enough hormones, causing their metabolism to slow down. Although many breeds are affected, Doberman Pinschers and Golden Retrievers are the most at risk.

How Old is Your Dog in Human Years?

Hypothyroid disease is typically found in dogs that are middle-aged and older. Use the chart below to find out approximately how old your dog is in human years and speak with your veterinarian about their life stage.

Determine Your Dog's Life Stage

	Juvenile/Young Adult 🐾	Mature 🐾	Senior/Geriatric 🐾	
	Your Dog's Weight			
	≤20 lbs	21-50 lbs	51-90 lbs	≥90 lbs
Your Dog's Age	Equivalent Age in Human Years			
1-6 years	15-40	15-42	15-45	15-49
7-9 years	44-52	47-56	50-61	56-71
10-12 years	56-64	60-65	66-77	78-93
12-13 years	64-68	69-74	77-82	93-101
14+ years	72+	78+	88+	108+

Diagnosing Hypothyroidism*

If your dog has clinical signs and symptoms that may be consistent with hypothyroidism, your veterinarian may test your dog's T4 concentration. Additional diagnostic tests will help accurately diagnose the condition.

Use the age and key charts on the left with the table below to see what specific tests your veterinarian may recommend based on your dog's physical exam, life stage, and individual needs.

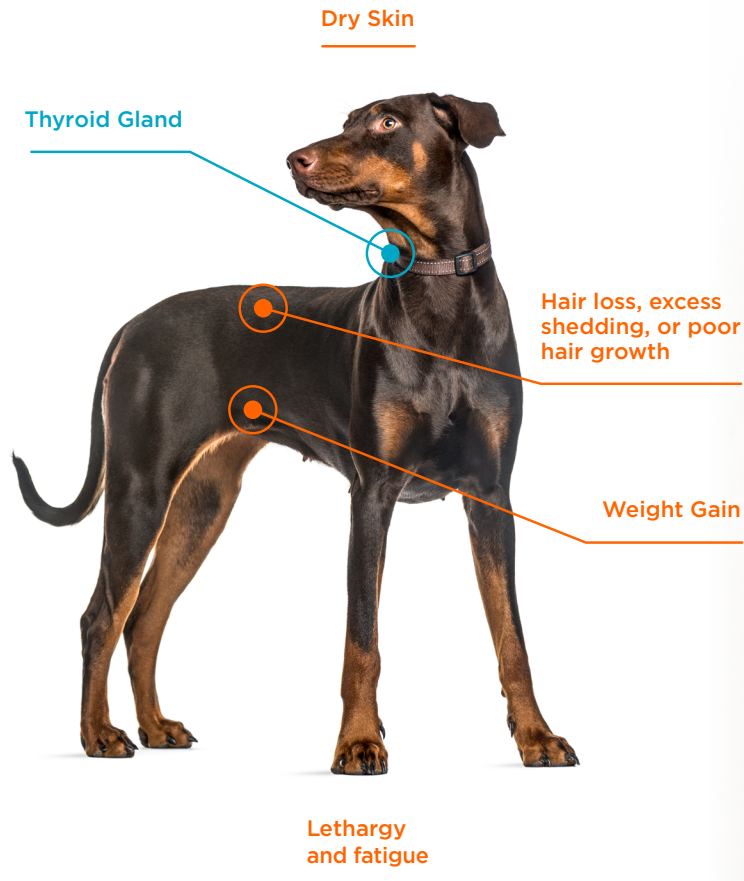
🐾 🐾 🐾	<p>Chemistry Panel</p> <p>Provides information on several organ systems that can be affected by hypothyroidism, including cholesterol, calcium and liver values.</p>
🐾 🐾 🐾	<p>Complete Blood Count (CBC)</p> <p>Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anemia, inflammation and platelets involved in blood clotting.</p>
🐾 🐾 🐾	<p>Urinalysis</p> <p>Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.</p>
🐾 🐾 🐾	<p>Fecal</p> <p>Screens for intestinal parasites.</p>
🐾 🐾 🐾	<p>Infectious Disease Testing</p> <p>Screens for parasitic diseases, such as heartworm, and tick-borne diseases.</p>
🐾 🐾	<p>Thyroid Testing</p> <p>Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally. Recommended for dogs with clinical signs or being treated for hypothyroidism.</p>
🐾	<p>Blood Pressure</p> <p>Screens for hypertension or hypotension that can accompany certain diseases.</p>

*Recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association

Clinical Signs

It is helpful to understand the function of the thyroid in order to recognize signs of hypothyroid disease. The thyroid is located on the windpipe (trachea) in your dog's throat area, the thyroid gland produces the hormone thyroxine (T4), along with several other important thyroid hormones. These hormones regulate your dog's metabolism, but problems can occur when thyroid hormones are not produced at normal levels.

If you notice any of the signs below, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for evaluation.



Treatment for Hypothyroidism

Having your dog diagnosed with hypothyroidism can be scary, but luckily, there is treatment that can help. Your veterinarian may prescribe a daily medication that will help resolve symptoms and regulate your dog's thyroid levels. It is important to administer this medication as directed, or symptoms could return.

In order to find the proper dose of medication, routine monitoring of your pet's thyroid level is needed, especially during the initial phases of treatment. It is recommended that your dog returns for exams and routine thyroid testing, even after the proper dose of medication is determined. With the right medication and monitoring, your dog will enjoy a normal lifespan.



Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Dog

Your veterinarian will be able to detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic testing designed for your dog. Diagnostic testing is also used to establish a biometric baseline to closely monitor your dog's health.

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your dog's health.

Schedule Regular Visits

Routine visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes and receive tips for at-home care.

Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic testing

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT TODAY!

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