

A Pet Owner's Guide:

Diabetes



What Is Diabetes?



Diabetes mellitus is a condition that occurs when your pet's body cannot effectively transport glucose (sugar) into cells. This results in an excessive amount of glucose in the blood and not enough in the cells.

Glucose is the body's source of energy that is obtained when the digestive system breaks down food. Without enough glucose, your pet's cells cannot function properly. Your pet's body will then compensate by getting energy from other sources—such as from muscle and fat.

What Causes Diabetes?

Diabetes is the result of deficient or malfunctioning insulin—a hormone produced by the pancreas that allows glucose to enter cells in the body.

There are two types of diabetes:

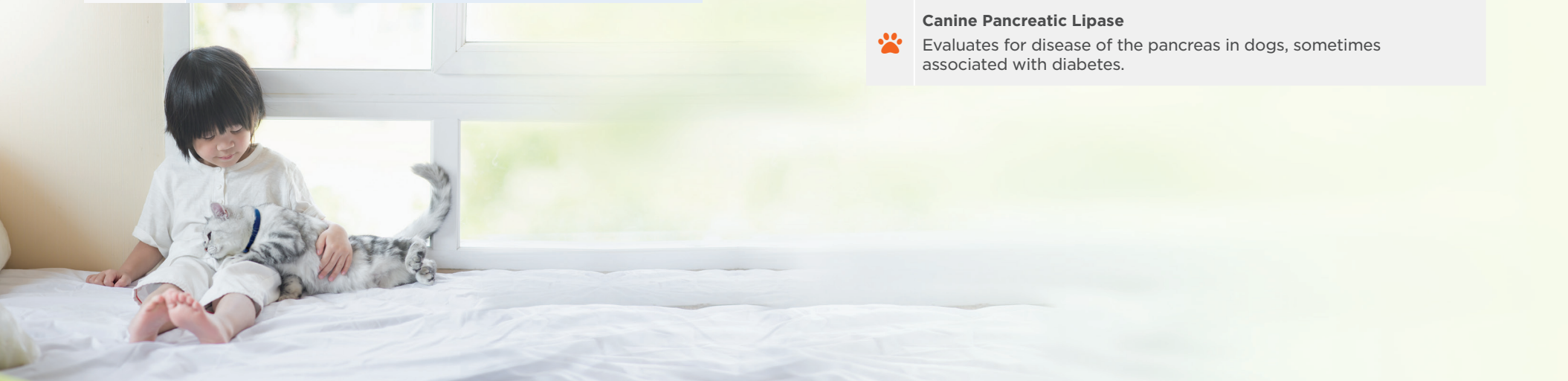
Type 1 Diabetes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pancreas does not produce enough insulin• Most common in dogs
Type 2 Diabetes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pancreas produces enough insulin, but the cells do not properly respond to the insulin• Most common in cats

Clinical Diagnostic Testing

Diabetes is often detected through routine testing. Once the disease is diagnosed, treatment is determined based on the severity of the disease. The earlier it is detected, the sooner your pet's diabetes can be managed.

Your veterinarian may recommend some or all of the following tests:

	Chemistry Panel Provides information on blood glucose levels and other values that can be affected by diabetes, including electrolytes, kidney values, and liver enzymes.
	Blood Glucose Levels Provides information on blood sugar levels.
	Complete Blood Count (CBC) Provides information on red and white blood cell counts and platelets.
	Urinalysis Provides information on urine concentration and presence of glucose, protein, ketones, and bacteria.
	Urine Culture Tests for urinary tract infection.
	Imaging Evaluates internal organs through X-rays or ultrasound.
	Thyroid Testing Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally.
	Canine Pancreatic Lipase Evaluates for disease of the pancreas in dogs, sometimes associated with diabetes.



Clinical Signs*

The first signs of diabetes can sometimes be easy to miss or be mistaken for something else. If you notice any of the following signs in your pet, start to track them, and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

**Weakness
or fatigue**

Lethargy

Excessive thirst

**Weight loss/
muscle wasting**

**Increased or
decreased
appetite**

Frequent urination



Treatment for Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus is a serious health condition but can be managed effectively. Your pet can lead an active, happy life with careful monitoring and by following your veterinarian's treatment plan of:

- Insulin injections
- At-home blood glucose monitoring
- Dietary modification
- Exercise

Monitoring Diabetes

Monitoring your pet's disease allows your veterinarian to assess the effectiveness of treatment and make changes to medication and diet as needed. In addition to performing repeat blood and urine diagnostic testing, your veterinarian may also recommend at-home glucose monitoring. Appropriate management and trending diagnostic testing allows your veterinarian to tailor treatment specific to your pet to help improve the quality and length of their life.



*Clinical signs can apply to both cats and dogs.



Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Pet

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

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your pet'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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