



Diabetes Mellitus



This Brochure
courtesy of
Hollyoak
Veterinary Surgery
IMPINGTON
01223 232111



What is diabetes mellitus?

Diabetes mellitus is a condition that usually develops because of a lack of insulin. Insulin is a hormone that the body needs to help it use glucose.

A shortage of insulin is usually the result of damage to the pancreas, the organ in the body that produces it.

In some pets, diabetes is caused not by a lack of insulin, but by hormonal changes or drugs that reduce the effect of the insulin.

A pet with diabetes can show a range of signs and the longer it is untreated, the more complications, including cataracts in the eyes, may appear. Although there is no cure for diabetes, it can be managed through dietary control, exercise, and often by giving additional insulin by injection. As in people, there are different types of diabetes and this will determine the treatment that your pet is given. The early diagnosis and management of diabetes can go a long way to reduce further complications.

Factors that can cause or increase the risk of diabetes include:

BREED

Some dogs, such as Samoyeds, Miniature Schnauzers, Miniature Poodles and Pugs are more predisposed to diabetes. Of cats, the Burmese breed appears to be more likely to develop diabetes.

GENDER

In dogs, diabetes is at least twice as common in females, whilst in cats, neutered males are more at risk.

BODY CONDITION

Overweight pets have a greater tendency to develop diabetes.

AGE

Pets can develop diabetes at any age, although the peak onset is around the age of eight years.

HORMONAL CHANGES

Short-term hormonal changes associated with bitches coming into heat, or certain types of medication, can initiate diabetes.

Recognising the signs of diabetes

A pet with diabetes may exhibit some of the following signs:

- Increased thirst
- Increased and frequent urination
- Weight loss
- Change in appetite; initially increases and later declines
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Cataracts (in dogs) causing blindness

IMPORTANT

Depending on the stage of the disease, the appetite of a diabetic pet can increase or decrease. If you are in any doubt about your pet's health, consult your veterinary surgeon.



Diagnosis

Your veterinary surgeon will examine your pet and may carry out blood and urine tests to determine whether diabetes is present. The early diagnosis of diabetes will help control the disease, and with the appropriate management there is every possibility that your pet will have a full and active life.

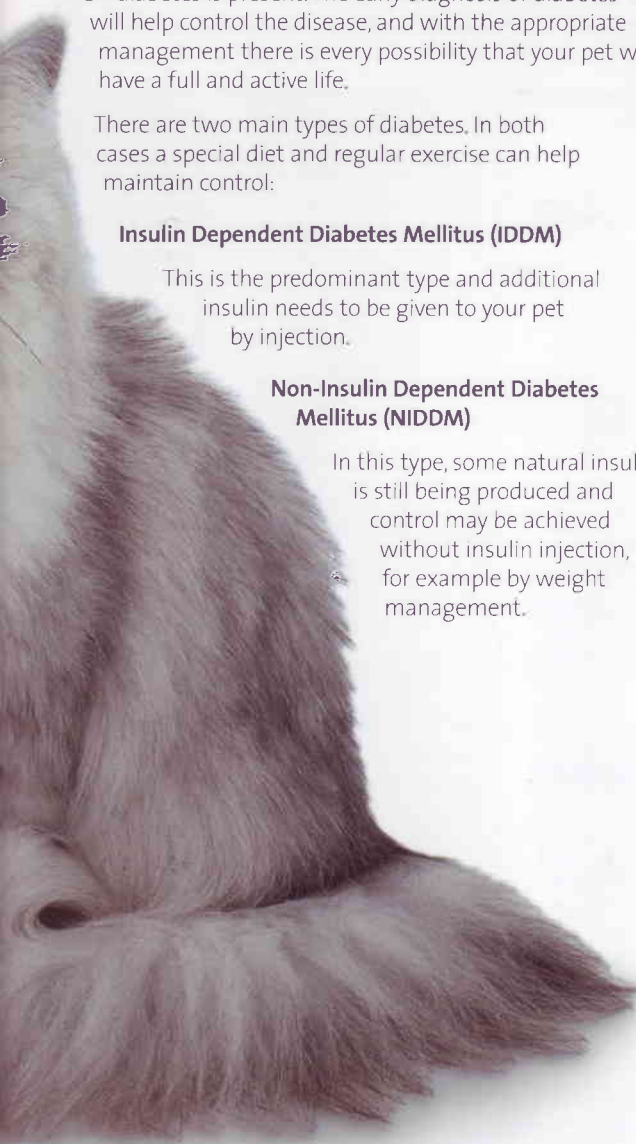
There are two main types of diabetes. In both cases a special diet and regular exercise can help maintain control:

Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM)

This is the predominant type and additional insulin needs to be given to your pet by injection.

Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM)

In this type, some natural insulin is still being produced and control may be achieved without insulin injection, for example by weight management.



Management and control of pets with diabetes

Your veterinary surgeon will advise on a personalised course of treatment and lifestyle changes for your pet, and recommend a food specially formulated to help manage diabetes.



DOGS:

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine w/d™ has increased levels of fibre which help reduce fluctuations in blood glucose levels.

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Canine r/d™ is higher in fibre and lower in fat and calories; ideal for diabetic dogs needing to lose weight



CATS:

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Feline m/d™ combines increased fibre levels with a low carbohydrate and high protein content to give good regulation of blood sugar.

This unique formulation is also effective for weight loss in overweight diabetic cats.

Hill's™ Prescription Diet™ Feline w/d™ is a higher fibre alternative for normal weight diabetic cats.



Owner's checklist

- ✓ Watch for signs of illness and don't delay in seeking advice from your vet
- ✓ Feed only the food recommended by your vet
- ✓ Closely follow a daily routine – such as regular times for meals, set amounts of food and consistent levels of daily exercise
- ✓ If giving insulin, make sure you set regular times to give injections
- ✓ Ensure that adequate fresh water is always available
- ✓ Diabetes requires regular, careful monitoring, so make sure you keep appointments with your vet

FEEDING GUIDE

All Hill's products are extremely palatable foods that are eagerly accepted by most pets. However, when suffering from diabetes your pet may have a reduced appetite or be less willing to eat. If your pet does resist this change of food, the following tips may help:

- Introduce the new food gradually – mix it with your pet's usual food, adding more of it each day until you have completed the change-over
- Warm canned food to body temperature – but no hotter – before feeding
- If your pet refuses to eat for more than 48 hours, discuss the problem with your vet



Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd.
Wingfield Court, Croxley Business Park
Hatters Lane, WATFORD WD18 8YL

Helpline Tel: 0800 282438/ 1-800-626002 (ROI) Fax: 01923 814401

www.HillsPet.co.uk



™Trademarks owned by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.
©2005 Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

*Vets' No.1 Choice To
Feed Their Own Pets*