

10 Critical Points To Managing Diabetes In Your Dog

In honor of National Pet Diabetes Month (November), we asked Dr. Phil Baxter, Chief Veterinary Officer for Vet On Demand, to give us the most important things about managing dog diabetes. He says: “These points will increase your dog’s chances of having fewer issues and a higher quality of life for longer if you will apply them. Diabetes is a very difficult disease to control in dogs because it can constantly be changing. Good luck and good care with your dog!”

#1 - Regular Checkups

A diabetic dog needs 6 month checkups (twice yearly) as long as there are no issues. If there are issues then these need to be more frequent.



Image source: [@percyPix via Flickr](#)

#2 - Regular Labwork

Twice yearly CBC and Full Chemistry lab work for dogs with no issues. If your dog has issues, you should be doing lab work even more often. These are necessary because diabetes affects other organ systems secondarily. It is important to monitor their glucose level as well as the status of other organs.



Image source: Image source: [@ArmyMedicine via Flickr](#)

#3 - Rapid Care for any sickness or injury

Just as in people, diabetes affects overall health and healing. Addressing these issues promptly increases the chances of your dog recovering.



Image source: [@StevenDepolo via Flickr](#)

#4 -Insulin 101

It's important to learn about Insulin: how to store, how to prepare for injection and how to perform the injection properly.



#5 - Symptom Monitoring

Be aware for your dog's daily actions. Observe for: change in water consumption and urination; change in appetite and weight; change in appearance of the eyes (cataracts - whitish to light blue in the pupil of the eye). Call your vet if you see any changes, even if you aren't sure if it's important.



Image source: [@IrishTypepad via Flickr](#)

#6 - Home Blood Test

Glucose home monitoring glucometers for pets are now available and very good. These enable you to better regulate their insulin.



#7 - Dietary Management

Use a recommended diet in the appropriate amounts on a regulated schedule. This helps control spikes in their blood sugar.



#8 – Exercise

Consistent moderate exercise - not sporadic or excessive - helps keep their body functioning. Plus, being overweight will exacerbate a diabetic dog's problems.



#9 - Be Prepared for Emergency

Have Karo Syrup available for low blood sugar episode, and know the regular and after hours veterinary contact phone numbers.



#10 Commitment

Owner must be consistent, observant and responsive to changes. This is the best way to keep your diabetic dog healthy and comfortable. The sooner you detect changes, the better.



Image source: [@RuthRaymond via Flickr](#)

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