



## **CANINE DIABETES**

### **WHAT IS DIABETES?**

Diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas. The pancreas produces Insulin, a hormone that allows nutrients (sugar & glucose) to be taken up by the body's cells and used as energy. When too little insulin is present, glucose levels in the blood rise. This results in increased urination.

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF DIABETES?**

Common signs of Diabetes include; weight loss, weakness, increased thirst and urination.

### **HOW IS DIABETES DIAGNOSED?**

Simple testing of a dog's blood and urine confirm the presence and levels of glucose.

### **WHAT CAUSES DIABETES IN DOGS?**

The cause of onset is unknown but many factors are thought to contribute: Genetic predisposition, immune diseases, inflammation of the pancreas, and drugs which effect insulin. Some Vets feel that diet plays a role, as does obesity and breeding.

### **HOW IS THIS CONDITION TREATED?**

There is no cure for Diabetes but it can be managed. By giving injections of insulin 1-2X daily, regulating the dog's diet and maintaining an exercise regimen, blood sugar levels can be controlled. Vitamins and fatty acids may be recommended.

### **MONITORING THE DIABETIC DOG.**

It may take some time to determine the animal's proper Insulin dose initially. Regular monitoring of blood and urine will help to ensure that the dog is on the proper dose.

Signs that the amounts of Insulin may not be right are:

**Hypoglycemia** - too little blood sugar. Confusion, shivering, lethargy, collapse or Seizures.

Rub honey or corn syrup on the gums. See vet if no improvement in ½ hour.

**Hyperglycemia** - too much blood sugar. Weakness, vomiting, rapid breathing and the smell of nail polish remover on the breath. See vet immediately.