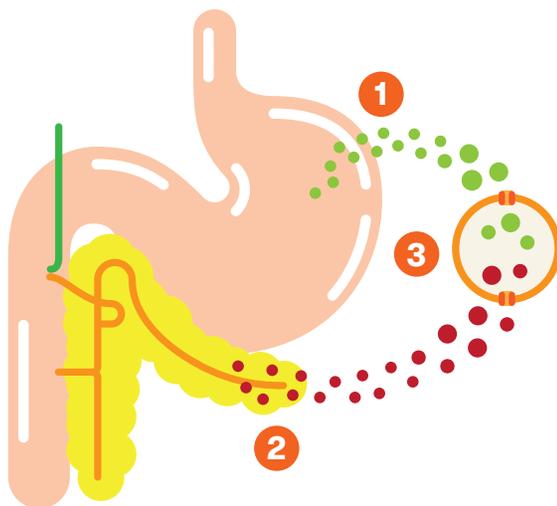


# Diabetes mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is a serious disease that requires lifelong treatment and care. It is caused when a pet's body doesn't produce enough insulin to process glucose. This weakens their entire system and makes them vulnerable to many different diseases and complications.

## How glucose and insulin work together

1. Stomach turns food into glucose (sugar)
2. Pancreas releases insulin
3. Insulin lets cells absorb sugar for energy



## What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Increased water intake
- Increased urination
- Chronic infections

- ▶ Pets with diabetes may develop cataracts, which can cause vision problems or blindness.



## How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like weight loss
  - Physical exam results
  - Blood and urine tests
- ▶ High blood glucose levels are a warning sign that glucose isn't being moved into the cells that need it to make energy.



## How is it treated?

Diabetes mellitus often requires lifelong treatment, regular blood tests, and daily medication and care, including:

- A strict feeding schedule
- Daily insulin injections (as shown by your veterinary team)
- Regular day-long blood glucose monitoring to ensure the correct insulin dose

- ▶ Few pets respond to diet changes and oral medications alone.

## How to help your pet



- Follow your pet's insulin schedule and all directions for handling and storing insulin
- Be strict about feeding schedules and ensure that your pet has access to fresh water at all times
- Have the supplies and perform regular full-day blood tests
- Monitor your pet closely and come in for checkups as directed
- Bring your pet in immediately if they show signs of low blood sugar (vomiting, weakness, tremors, collapse)
- Watch your pet for changes in water intake, urination, appetite, or attitude that may indicate unexpected complications
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

