

Diabetes Explained

Family Matters

Hearing that your pet has diabetes can feel overwhelming.

You may immediately think:

"Will they need injections for the rest of their life?"

For many pets, the answer is yes.

But that doesn't mean they can't live a long, happy and fulfilling life.

At Amity, we believe that understanding diabetes helps replace fear with confidence. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand what diabetes is and how it can be successfully managed.

What Is Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus occurs when the body cannot regulate blood sugar properly.

Normally, a hormone called **insulin**, produced by the pancreas, allows sugar from the bloodstream to enter the body's cells where it is used for energy.

In diabetic pets, there isn't enough insulin, or the body cannot use it effectively.

As a result, blood sugar rises while the body's cells are effectively starving for energy.

What Are the Signs?

The most common signs include:

- Drinking much more than usual.
- Passing larger amounts of urine.
- Increased appetite.
- Weight loss despite eating well.
- Lethargy.
- Cloudy eyes or cataracts in dogs.

These signs often develop gradually, making them easy to miss at first.

How Is Diabetes Diagnosed?

Your observations at home are often the first clue.

We combine these with:

- A physical examination.
- Blood tests to measure blood glucose.
- Urine tests to look for glucose and ketones.
- Occasionally additional blood tests to rule out other conditions.

These tests help us confirm the diagnosis and determine the most appropriate treatment plan.

Can Diabetes Be Cured?

For most dogs, diabetes is **managed rather than cured**.

Most diabetic dogs require lifelong insulin injections alongside a consistent diet and routine.

Some cats, however, may achieve diabetic remission with early diagnosis, appropriate insulin treatment and dietary management. Even then, ongoing monitoring remains important because diabetes can return.

How Is Diabetes Managed?

Successful management relies on consistency.

This usually includes:

- Regular insulin injections.
- Feeding an appropriate diet.
- Consistent meal times.
- Maintaining a healthy body weight.
- Regular exercise.
- Monitoring drinking, appetite and body weight.

Many owners are understandably nervous about giving insulin injections.

The good news is that most pets tolerate them extremely well, and most owners quickly become confident after a little guidance.

Regular Monitoring Is Essential

Managing diabetes isn't about getting one blood test right.

It's about monitoring how your pet responds over time.

Regular check-ups allow us to assess blood glucose control, adjust insulin doses when necessary and identify any complications before they become serious.

Your observations at home remain just as important as our examinations.

A Normal Life Is Possible

Although diabetes is a lifelong condition, it doesn't have to define your pet's life.

With good management, many diabetic pets continue enjoying walks, holidays, playtime and family life for many years.

At Amity, we'll work alongside you every step of the way, helping you understand the condition, teaching you how to administer insulin and adjusting treatment as your pet's needs change.

Because managing diabetes isn't simply about controlling blood sugar.

It's about helping your pet continue enjoying the life they love.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.