



DIABETES AND YOUR PET: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Dr. Meghan Davis DVM

Diabetes mellitus is the most common form of diabetes we see in dogs (and cats). It is typically diagnosed in middle age and may be more common in dogs with a history of pancreatitis.

Normally when an animal eats a meal their pancreas produces a hormone called insulin to use the glucose (sugar) in the food and turn it into fuel for the body. An animal becomes diabetic when their pancreas stops producing insulin properly.

Due to the excessive glucose in the bloodstream a diabetic animal will develop extreme thirst and urination. The urine is typically very dilute and accidents in the house are common. On tile flooring the urine may even seem sticky.

As the organs are not receiving an appropriate energy source the animal will also have an increased hunger. Despite this hunger they will start to lose weight as the body breaks down muscle to fuel vital functions.



Diabetic dogs can often develop cataracts very quickly and this may be what prompts the owner to make a vet

JULY 2024

(Diabetes...continued)

appointment.

Diabetes is highly suspected based on increased thirst, increased urination, increased hunger and weight loss. The vet will recommend blood and urine testing and if glucose is high in both then the diagnosis is confirmed.

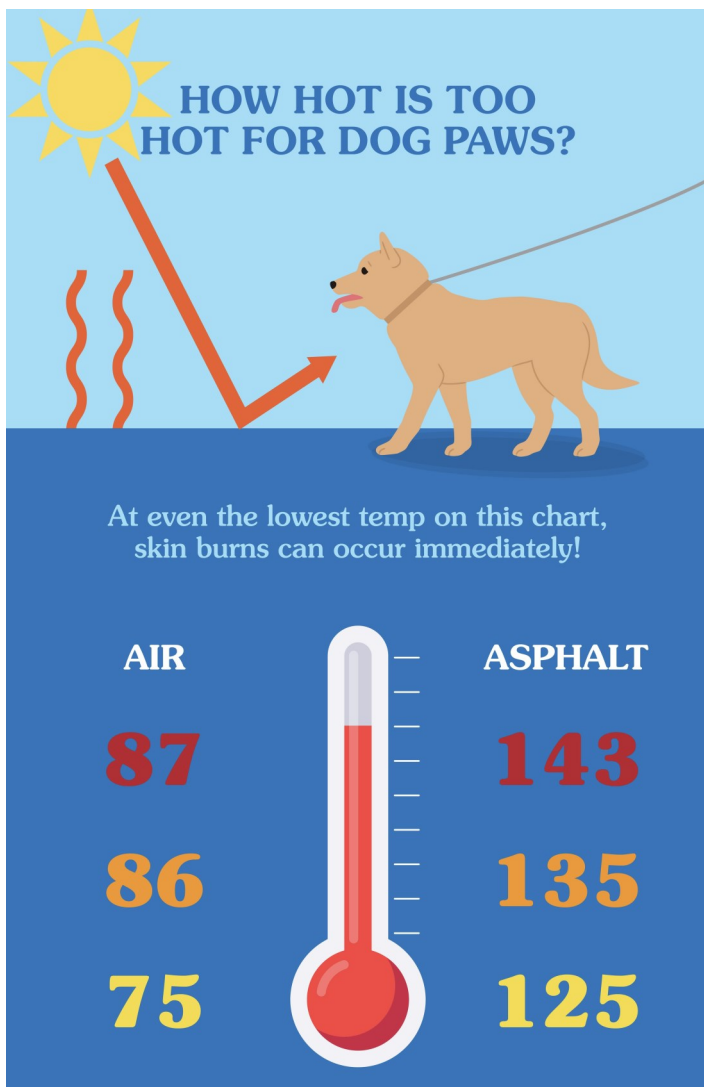
Diabetic dogs will require insulin injections for the rest of their lives (typically twice daily). This is a simple process and most pets tolerate it very well. Initially frequent vet visits will be required to assess response to treatment and determine the best insulin type and dose for that specific pet.

For the best regulation the dog will need to be fed twice daily at the time of the insulin injection. Free feeding (leaving the food down all the time) or once a day meals are not recommended and could even be dangerous if the blood glucose drops too low after insulin is given. Sometimes a vet may recommend a high fiber prescription diet to help maintain steady sugar levels.

Owners can be taught how to spot check their diabetic pets blood glucose at home (it is important to use a pet glucometer not a human one as they are calibrated differently). In the last few years human continuous glucose monitors (ex. Freestyle Libre) have been studied in pets and shown to be fairly reliable. A patch of fur is shaved and a small plastic monitor applied to the skin. This device will monitor and store glucose levels for up to two weeks and the results are accessed by scanning with a phone app!

(Diabetes...continued)

While diabetes is a lifelong condition that can require significant time and financial commitment, well controlled diabetics can have good quality of life with few symptoms so don't let the thought of needles scare you away from treating!



EMPTY THE SHELTERS

July 9-31

Adoption Specials

- \$50 - All Dogs Over 6 Months Old
- \$25 - For Dogs Who Have Over 90-Day Stay at GCHS
- \$20 - All Cats & Kittens

Puppies Under 6 months Old EXCLUDED

• 239-332-0364

• 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, FL

• www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org

ADOPT, DON'T SHOP

Crime doesn't pay, but we do! Call with your tips.

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

1-800-780-TIPS (8477)

ANONYMOUS · CASH REWARDS



THANK YOU!

Better Buildings, Inc., grateful for the work that the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force is doing, generously donated \$15,000 to assist us in our mission to both protect animals and to educate our residents and children regarding the importance of appropriate animal treatment.



The incredible support of our community is the driving force that has helped this initiative to prosper and grow! Thank you, BB Inc.!

SPEAK UP

FOR THE VOICE- LESS



◀ Khaleesi was rescued in Cape Coral after suffering horrific neglect at her former owners hands. She was severely malnourished and couldn't even stand. Today, she is healed and in a loving home. Her former owners were jailed on felony charges. One call made all the difference.

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS



STOP DOG FIGHTING AND ANIMAL CRUELTY NOW!

CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT
1-800-780-TIPS
(8477)

TO PROTECT ANIMALS WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Paid by CSTF

RINGWORM!!! WHAT IS IT? HOW DID MY PET GET IT? HOW DID I GET IT?

By Alice Jeromin, B.S. Pharmacy, DVM, DACVD

Ringworm is actually NOT A WORM as the name implies.

It is the slang term for a contagious fungal infection that affects the skin, also called a “dermatophyte.”

There are three species of ringworm that most commonly affect pets: *Microsporum canis*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, and *Microsporum gypseum*.

Microsporum canis is the most commonly diagnosed type of ringworm that affects cats, especially kittens or cats in close confinement such as catteries, cat shows, or shelters.

This fungal infection is contagious between other animals and humans via infected hairs that carry fungal spores. These hairs, once shed into the environment (i.e. your home), can remain viable for up to 18 months. So, it's important to not only treat the pet but also the environment even several weeks after the pet has been pronounced “cured.”

Human lesions appear as a red “ring” normally anywhere on the body the cat has had contact-arms, neck, face (from kissing the cute kitten!).

Once your pet has been diagnosed with ringworm, it's important to keep them isolated so as not to contaminate other pets in the household or the living areas of the home.



Vacuuming, mopping and cleaning with dilute bleach solution or accelerated hydrogen peroxide as well as laundering bedding, rugs, cloth toys, etc. that the pet has been in contact with can prevent further infection.

(RINGWORM...continued)

Your veterinarian will be able to diagnose the fungal infection using a Wood's light, hair plucks looking for the fungal spores, a fungal culture, or a PCR test. Some pets have visible lesions (Persian cats and Yorkshire terriers appear to be predisposed) such as inflamed areas, scaling, nodules, or no lesions at all which is termed “asymptomatic carrier.”

It is important to check all pets in the household in case an asymptomatic carrier exists that continues to infect



the rest of the pets (and the owner). Treatment for the pet includes medications such as Itraconazole orally and antifungal topicals such as lime dip, Chlorhexidine, or topical Lamisil. Your veterinarian will determine which is best for your pet. Even though *Microsporum Canis* is the most commonly diagnosed ringworm species, *Trichophyton* appears to be more common in hunting dogs which usually affects their face and *Microsporum Gypseum* is present in the soil which can affect pets that “root” around or dig in the soil. So, if your pet has any suspicious lesions or if YOU have any new lesions on your skin after adopting a new pet, please see your health care provider as well as your veterinarian!

ZERO TOLERANCE. ZERO EXCUSES.



ABUSE AN ANIMAL IN LEE COUNTY...GO TO JAIL.

PET FOOD RECALL

Company Announcement

July 1, 2024 – Viva Raw LLC, Hillsborough, NC is voluntarily recalling dog and cat foods, including the Viva Turkey for Dogs Ground, Viva Turkey for Dogs Chunked, Viva Turkey for Cats, Viva Pure Turkey, and Viva Beef & Turkey for Puppies all manufactured under Lot 21244 because this lot, which includes these five products are contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and is a potential health risk to people and pets.



Listeria monocytogenes can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in pets eating contaminated products. People can become exposed to this pathogen through multiple routes such as handling the contaminated products, contact with pets that have eaten contaminated products and/or contact with surfaces that have touched contaminated food, such as bowls, utensils, or countertops. Risk of human illness from *Listeria monocytogenes* contaminated pet food increases if people do not thoroughly wash their hands

after handling the food or having contact with their pet, or by not thoroughly cleaning contaminated surfaces.

Healthy people infected with *Listeria monocytogenes* may experience some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, aches, fever and diarrhea. *Listeria monocytogenes* infections can spread through the bloodstream to the nervous system (including the brain), resulting in meningitis and other potentially fatal illnesses. Pregnant women are especially susceptible to *Listeria* infection, which can result in miscarriage. The young, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems are more vulnerable to infection. People exhibiting signs of *Listeria monocytogenes* infection after having contact with recalled product(s) or a pet that has eaten recalled product(s) should contact their healthcare providers.

Listeria monocytogenes illnesses in pets are rare, and infected pets may display symptoms such as mild to severe diarrhea, anorexia, fever, nervous, muscular and respiratory signs, miscarriage, depression, shock and death. Pets exposed to contaminated food can be infected without showing symptoms. Infected pets, even if they do not show symptoms, can act as carriers and transfer *L. monocytogenes* through their feces and saliva into the home environment and to people and other pets in the household. If your pet has eaten the recalled product(s) and has symptoms of *Listeria monocytogenes* infection, please contact your veterinarian.



The products were distributed directly to consumers in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

Only products from Lot 21244 are affected, Viva Raw is notifying all customers who were shipped any Turkey or Beef & Turkey for Puppies products between May 16th and June 28th, 2024.

No illnesses related to this lot have been reported to date.

(RECALL...continued)

The product is distributed as frozen 1 lb bricks in clear vacuum packaging. Please see the attached example of product labels. There are no expiration dates for these products.

Products matching the specific lot number 21244 below are being recalled:

Viva Turkey for Dogs Ground
Viva Turkey for Dogs Chunked
Viva Turkey for Cats
Viva Pure Turkey
Viva Beef & Turkey for Puppies

The issue was discovered during a facility inspection conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and The North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA). The FDA tested samples of Viva Turkey for Dogs and found samples from Lot 21244 were positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*. All products produced in Lot 21244 were slated for destruction. However, we have since learned some of the product from this lot was inadvertently released from the warehouse.

If you find that you have products from Lot 21244, please contact Viva Raw at info@vivarawpets.com for a refund on any remaining product—you should then destroy the food in a way that children, pets, and wildlife cannot access. Do not feed the recalled product to pets or any other animals.

FDA recommends humans do not touch the contaminated food product with bare hands. While wearing gloves or using paper towels, place the contaminated food in a sealed plastic bag and throw it in the garbage. Areas that may have come in contact with the contaminated product should be sanitized. Do not sell or donate the recalled products.

If you have any questions, please email us at info@vivarawpets.com or call/text us at (919) 371-8882 between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST Monday to Friday.



MEET OUR SHY “DIVA”

So beautiful...this four-year-old female DSH-Mix has been awaiting a forever home for far too long.

Diva is shy and quiet. She requires time to get to know you.

In the market for a best bud?



Come out to the Animal Refuge Center, located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers and say hello to our sweet girl!

For additional information, please call 239-731-3535.

“SEE IT. SAY IT! MAKE THE CALL!”

Report dog fighting and/or any animal abuse anonymously by calling 800-780-TIPS (8477).





PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM HEARTWORM

Mosquitoes are capable of spreading heartworm, a parasite that can lead to heart failure, lung disease, organ damage, and potentially fatal outcomes. It is important to fight the bite and keep your pets safe!

Heartworms can only be transmitted to your pet through the bite of an infected mosquito.

MOSQUITOES ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO YOUR PETS.

AVOID PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY

CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN TO DETERMINE WHICH PREVENTATIVE HEARTWORM TREATMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOUR PET.

AVOID PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY

IF POSSIBLE, AVOID HAVING YOUR PETS OUTSIDE DURING TIMES OF PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY (DAWN AND DUSK).

USE REPELLENTS SAFE FOR YOUR DOG

LEMON EUCALYPTUS OIL IS ONE MOSQUITO REPELLENT THAT IS SAFE FOR BOTH HUMANS AND DOGS.

DUMP ANY STAGNANT WATER FROM CONTAINERS

ELIMINATE PLACES FOR MOSQUITOES TO GROW AROUND YOUR HOME.

LCMCD.ORG

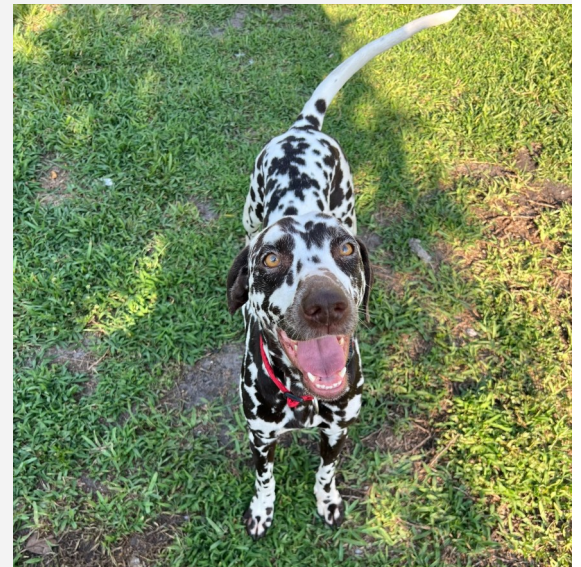
ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE “PUP-DATE”

At the end of May, the Lee County Sheriff's Office removed three Dalmatians from a garage in Cape Coral.

The owner, John Joseph Cuomo, was arrested and charged accordingly.

Thanks to the work of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force and Dalmatian Rescue of South Florida,

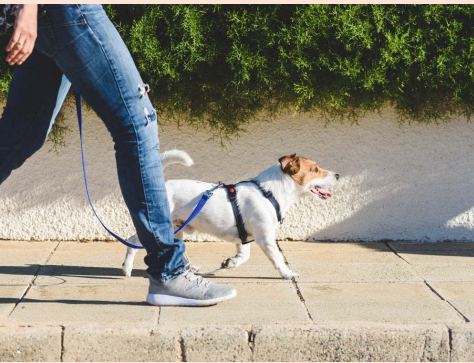
Argos, Stella and Red have gained weight, are flourishing and are now enjoying the wonderful lives that they deserve.



PATROLLING WITH YOUR PET...

Calls received from conscientious pet owners have been an invaluable and ongoing source of information for the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Pet owners, like yourself, have clearly paid attention to activities and concerns in their neighborhood and have diligently reported these matters to both the Lee County Sheriff's Office and to Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers.



Those additional eyes (and tails) have been a remarkable source of information, helping to keep our communities safe. No one

knows a neighborhood better than the residents and we want to keep the lines of communication open!

Should you encounter suspicious activity while out walking Fido...if something out of the ordinary attracts your attention...please call us!

To report concerns, please call 239-477-1000 (non-emergency conditions), or Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers at 1-800-780-TIPS (8477) to report crime anonymously or 9-1-1 under emergency conditions.

INCREASING YOUR PET'S LIFESPAN

Who wouldn't do anything possible to extend their pet's longevity?

A study conducted using a database of 2.2 million canines and 460,000 felines concluded that spaying/neutering your pet extends the duration of their life.

The data showed that, on average, neutered male dogs lived 18% longer than unneutered dogs. The study additionally indicated a life expectancy increase of 23% for spayed female dogs. As for cats, the results were even more impressive.

Neutered male cats showed a 62% increase in life expectancy, while spayed females lived 39% longer than unsprayed female cats.



**PRIOR TO
TRANSFERRING
OWNERSHIP OF AN
ANIMAL, PLEASE TAKE
A MOMENT TO CHECK
LEE COUNTY'S ANIMAL
ABUSE REGISTRY.**

SHANDY SEEKING A LOVING HOME

Shandy, an adorable senior female, is a bundle of love with a great deal of energy.

We're hoping to help this sweetie find a safe and loving forever home.

Interested? Do you know someone who might be? Come out to the Cape Coral Animal Shelter or call 239-573-2002 for more info!

