

You are receiving this email because you have expressed interest in learning more about pet care and ownership. If you don't want to receive messages from us anymore, please follow the directions at the bottom to opt-out. Our wish is not to spam you, but to provide good information. Thank you!

Pet Tracks

For The Ultimate Pet Owners

November is Pet Diabetes Awareness Month

We **urge all pet owners** to be aware of the **early warning signs** of pet diabetes.

"Pet owners should be aware of the possible warning signs of pet diabetes and see their veterinarians for a definitive diagnosis," veterinarian Dr. Madeleine Stahl tells MarketWatch.com. "Considering the fact that pet diabetes can be effectively managed, **lack of owner awareness may be the biggest risk factor associated with this condition.**"

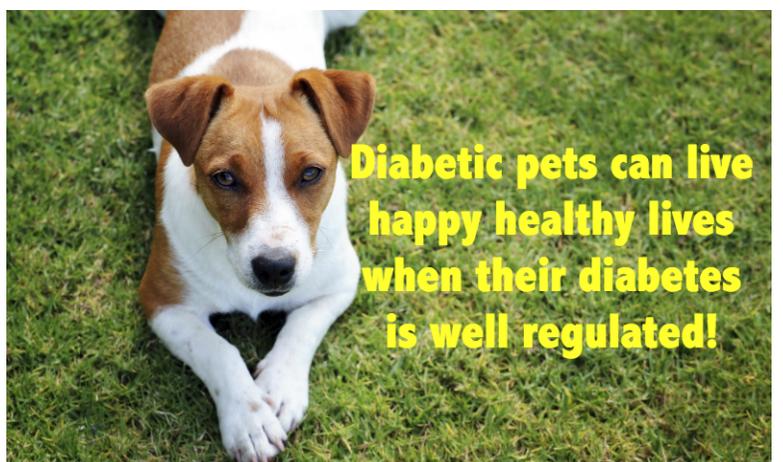
Signs of the disease can be difficult to spot, and can even be mistaken as symptoms of other conditions, such as hypothyroidism or kidney disease. But as long as pet owners are educated and vigilant, early diagnosis is possible.

Dogs and cats with diabetes usually sleep more, and are more lethargic during the day. Dogs with diabetes can have cloudy eyes, while cats may have thinning hair and weak hind legs. Pets with canine or feline diabetes also exhibit three additional symptoms - polydipsia, or increased water intake; polyuria, or increased urination; and polyphagia, or increased appetite. Sudden weight loss can sometimes be a good indicator that a dog or cat may have diabetes. Animals exhibiting these signs should see a veterinarian immediately; failure to treat diabetes in pets can lead to some devastating and life-threatening health issues.

Risk factors for diabetes in dogs and cats include advanced age, genetic predisposition, breed, and obesity. That last factor - pet obesity - is on the rise here in the U.S., with over half of dogs and nearly 60 percent of cats falling in the overweight or obese category. As a result, the number of pets diagnosed with diabetes has skyrocketed in recent years. In the past 3 decades alone, the prevalence of diabetes mellitus in dogs and cats ranges from between 1 in 1,001 pets to 1 in 500 pets. Almost three times as many dogs suffer from diabetes today than only three decades ago.

There is an important distinction to make between canine and feline diabetes. Dogs are usually diagnosed with Type I diabetes because there is a deficiency in the way the pancreas produces insulin. Cats, on the other hand, usually have Type II diabetes that results from a decreased sensitivity to insulin.

While there is **no cure for pet diabetes**, there are ways to **successfully manage the disease**. Cats diagnosed with feline diabetes typically have a normal life expectancy - as long as their owners help them maintain a proper diet, a healthy lifestyle, and check their blood glucose levels as directed by their veterinarian, cats with diabetes usually live just as long as cats without.



And while diabetic dogs once faced a much shorter life expectancy than their healthy counterparts, living on average only 2 to 5 years after their diabetes diagnosis, things are turning around for canines living with this disease. As long as the dog's blood glucose concentration is closely managed by a responsible owner, and as long as that diabetic dog does not develop any other health complications, dogs with canine diabetes can often expect to live just as long as dogs without the condition.

Help us share the early warning signs with other pet owners by sharing this newsletter.



Breed of the Month - Burmese

Burmese are extremely people-oriented cats. They are almost dog-like in their tendency to follow their owners to give and receive affection. In fact, many Burmese even learn to play fetch.



The appearance of this breed has undergone great change over the years. The 1953 standard describes this feline as "medium, dainty, and long," whereas the 1957 standard describes it as "midway between Domestic Shorthair and Siamese."

This is a smart cat that is equally comfortable in a shop, home, or office. It is energetic, playful, and keeps its human companions amused with its antics.

There are certain differences in temperament between males and females:

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Hyperthyroidism in Cats

The most diagnosed endocrine disorder in cats. Weight loss and increased appetite are among the most common clinical signs.

[Learn more](#)



Xylitol is Poison to our Dogs

Xylitol is a sugar substitute, they say is safe for humans, but it is deadly to pets especially dogs.

[Learn more](#)



Bad Breath in Cats & Dogs

Persistent bad breath can indicate something is wrong in the gastrointestinal tract, liver or kidneys or it could mean your pet needs better dental care.

[Learn more](#)



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Hello, I am Sharon Jones, owner and founder of Guardian Pet Sitters®.

My love of animals was evident from all the pets that shared our family's home. This included dogs, cats, rabbits, fish and many others. Our family always treated our pets as part of the family. It was this love of animals that gave rise to Guardian Pet Sitters® in the early 90s.

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