

Canine Hypothyroidism

WHAT MAY SEEM LIKE SIGNS OF AGING COULD BE SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS.

Frequently asked questions

What is canine hypothyroidism?

- Hypothyroidism is the most common hormonal disorder affecting dogs. It occurs when the thyroid glands, located near the throat, are unable to produce enough thyroid hormone.
- Thyroid hormone helps regulate and control normal bodily processes. Hypothyroidism is the condition caused by not having enough thyroid hormone in the system, which leads to a decreased (slower) metabolism.
- The underlying cause of hypothyroidism is unknown. Additional research is needed to understand the specific risk factors.

How do I know if my pet is at risk?

- Hypothyroidism slows a dog's metabolism and is typically suspected when signs show a decrease in energy and activity level. Other signs include weight gain without an increase in appetite, lethargy, sensitivity to cold, hair loss or excessive shedding, and recurring skin and/or ear infection.
- Hypothyroidism can affect dogs of any age, male or female and tends to affect dogs of larger breeds more often.

What can I do to help?

- If you recognize any signs of hypothyroidism in your pet, call your veterinarian as soon as possible. He or she can run some simple tests to determine if your dog has hypothyroidism. Additional tests may be required, as other diseases and medications can affect your dog's thyroid function.
- In addition to maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle, be sure to schedule annual wellness visits with your veterinarian. Wellness visits and regular monitoring establish a baseline of health for your dog, which can help with the early detection of underlying disease.

