



Rolling Meadows Animal Hospital
Small Animal News Letter

March 2006

HYPOGLYCEMIA

HYPOGLYCEMIA is caused when a pet's blood sugar drops significantly below normal levels. Often a reaction to stress, excitement, or over-activity may be the cause. Very common in small puppies--especially the "toy" breeds.

It may be INHERITED or simply a result of the body's internal organs developing a little more slowly than normal.

SIGNS include:

1. Loss of energy.
2. Becomes more quiet than normal.
3. Shivering.
4. Wobbly, cannot stand.
5. Semi-comatose or comatose (sleepy).
6. Subnormal body temperature.
7. "Fainting" spells in older dogs, particularly during exercise.

TREATMENT is by replacement of the blood sugar, by IV Injections of Glucose. Recovery is usually very rapid.

HOME THERAPY for when you think an attack is on the verge of happening:

- 2-3cc Karo Syrup, Honey, or Sugar Water/5 pounds body weight.
- Keep Warm.
- Keep Quiet.
- Limit Exercise.
- Have examined by veterinarian to insure there are no other causes.

PREVENTION PRECAUTIONS:

- (a) All newly arrived puppies, especially toy breeds, should have honey, light Karo Syrup daily.
- (b) Feed high quality puppy/kitten foods.
- (c) Monitor food intake to be sure consuming enough food to meet normal body requirements.

(d) Monitor pets with vomiting and/or diarrhea very closely.

(d) Notify the Veterinarian if you see any of the following signs:

1. Seizures persist or become more severe.
2. Seizures in the absence of exercise or stress.
3. Your pet drinks more water or urinates more frequently.
4. Your pet begins to lose weight.

For more information on our practice and helpful hints on maintaining the health of your animals, please visit our web site at: www.rollingmeadowsanimalhospital.com