



DIABETES INSIPIDUS (Water Diabetes)

What is Diabetes Insipidus?

It is a disorder of the body's water balance characterized by increased urine production, urine of low concentration, and increased water consumption. It is considered rare. Dogs and cats can both be affected.

There are two types of diabetes insipidus:

- Central diabetes insipidus— due to a deficiency in the secretion of antidiuretic hormone (ADH).
- Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus—the kidneys are nonresponsive to ADH.

What are the Signs of Diabetes Insipidus?

The congenital forms of central and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, will show up in pets younger than one year. The acquired forms of central diabetes insipidus can occur at any age. The common signs are increased urine production and increased thirst. Some pets will show incontinence too (leaking urine during sleep).

What Causes Diabetes Insipidus?

The most common causes are associated with inadequate secretion of ADH by the pituitary. This can be due to a congenital defect, idiopathic (unknown) cause, trauma, or pituitary gland tumor. The renal insensitivity to ADH form may be caused by a congenital defect, or secondary to drugs (e.g., lithium, demeclocycline, and methoxy-fluorane), or secondary to endocrine and metabolic disorders (e.g., hyperadrenocorticism, low potassium, pyometra (pus filled uterus), and high calcium).

How is Diabetes Insipidus Diagnosed?

The history and physical examination findings will suggest diabetes as a possible problem, but a urinalysis is needed to get a presumptive diagnosis. The urine specific gravity (concentration) will be very low. A water deprivation test will show urine that remains dilute in spite of gradual body water loss. An ADH stimulation test is diagnostic for

central diabetes insipidus (an injection of ADH is given and the concentration of the urine is measured over the next several hours).

Can It be Treated?

Yes, it is treated with medicines for the rest of the pet's life.

- Central diabetes insipidus—DDAVP: (1-2 drops of the intranasal preparation are placed on the eye under the eyelid once or twice daily to control the disease). The dose and frequency is based on water consumption.
- Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus—chlorothiazide is given by mouth twice daily. Water should always be kept available. Pets with untreated diabetes insipidus can become dehydrated very rapidly without water. It is wise to monitor the volume of water used each day.

Special instructions: _____

Your next appointment is _____

Call Us If...

- Your pet's drinking or urinating habits appear to be getting worse.
- You notice any degradation in your pet's general health.
- You have trouble giving the prescribed medicine.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!