

## 7 Essential Tips for Living With a Diabetic Dog

**How to successfully manage your dog's diabetes in your everyday life.**

*By Marcia King*

To manage your dog's diabetes, you need to be careful and consistent with his care. Here are a few important tips to help keep you on course.

1. **Keep a record.** If more than one person in the household gives insulin injections, keep a log or mark it on the calendar after giving each insulin dose. This avoids avoid under- or over-dosing mishaps.
2. **Quench his thirst.** Make sure your diabetic pet always has access to plenty of fresh water. Diabetic dogs can be very thirsty, especially if they are not well-regulated. Inadequate amounts of water can lead to dehydration and potentially serious problems that could require hospitalization. Encourage drinking by keeping bowls of fresh water in various rooms and outdoors.
3. **Know who to call.** Keep handy the telephone numbers of your veterinarian and emergency animal hospital in case you need assistance.
4. **Carry supplies.** Take a small packet of syrup or honey with you when you go anywhere with your dog, in case he suddenly becomes hypoglycemic. Keep a supply of glucose at home, too.
5. **Travel smart.** If you plan to travel without your dog, either board him with your veterinarian or find a pet sitter or boarding kennel that can provide the necessary care and can recognize any sign of a problem.
6. **Visit the vet.** If your diabetic dog was well-regulated and suddenly stops responding well to insulin, have your veterinarian check for a silent urinary tract infection. These are very common in diabetic dogs and can throw off a pet's blood sugar regulation.
7. **Stay connected.** Join an e-mail list or a Yahoo! Group for information, support, and encouragement.

Tips courtesy of Elisabeth Snead, DVM, DACVIM, and Judy Dick, of [www.caninediabetes.org](http://www.caninediabetes.org) and [www.petdiabetes.com](http://www.petdiabetes.com)

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