



HYPOGLYCEMIA

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is a symptom of underlying issues, not a disease. As the primary energy source, it causes weakness, vomiting, tremors, seizures, unconsciousness, or death.

Puppies <3 months are most at risk due to immature regulation; toy breeds are prone. Triggers: poor nutrition, cold, parasites.

Adults: diabetes treatment, severe liver disease, pancreatic tumors, or portosystemic shunts.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Glucometers or blood work quickly confirm hypoglycemia. Pinpointing the cause requires tailored tests (urine, hormones, ultrasound, radiographs) based on age and symptoms.

TREATMENT

If the patient can eat, offer food or sugar sources like Karo syrup. If unable to swallow, there is no benefit to rubbing anything on the gums, as there is no sugar absorption in the mouth, and introducing liquid into the mouth could increase risk of aspiration.

Always have a vet evaluate hypoglycemic patients—even if they improve after eating—for stabilization. They'll likely need IV dextrose to regulate blood sugar, followed by tests to identify the underlying cause.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Hypoglycemia is a symptom, not a disease.
- Puppies/kittens: Provide proper nutrition, regular vet exams, vaccinations, and deworming to reduce stress.
- Diabetics: Feed or offer sugar source (e.g., Karo syrup), then contact vet clinic immediately for guidance.
- Do not give insulin to non-eating diabetics. For consistent appetite loss, consult vet to adjust treatment plan.
- Immediate vet care if incorrect insulin dose (especially overdose). If underdose suspected (SQ), do not re-dose.