

Common symptoms of hypothyroidism include the following

- Weight gain, without an increase in appetite
- Lethargy
- Sensitivity to cold
- Hair loss
- Excessive shedding
- Recurring skin and/or ear infections



Canine
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Your dog and hypothyroidism. **The facts.**

Reference

1. Results from 8,238 canine patient samples run in-clinic, where "wellness" was selected as the reason for testing. Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Westbrook, Maine USA.

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What is hypothyroidism?

Hypothyroidism in dogs occurs when the thyroid glands, located in the neck, are unable to produce enough thyroid hormone, which helps regulate and control many normal bodily processes. Not having enough thyroid hormone in the system leads to a decreased (slower) metabolism. It's typically suspected when dogs show a decrease in energy and activity levels. Simple tests can be run to determine if your dog has this disease.

Tests might include:

- Urine tests to rule out urinary tract infections and evaluate the kidneys' ability to concentrate urine.
- Chemistry tests to evaluate kidney, liver and pancreatic function, as well as sugar levels.
- A complete blood count to rule out blood-related conditions.
- Electrolyte tests to find out if your dog is dehydrated or experiencing an electrolyte imbalance.
- A thyroid test to determine if the thyroid gland is producing too little thyroid hormone.

What if my dog has been diagnosed with hypothyroidism?

First of all, don't worry—hypothyroidism is the most common canine hormonal disorder. It's easily managed with a simple, affordable and effective medication that increases your dog's thyroid levels to normal and improves other signs of the disease, such as metabolism and energy.

How will my dog be treated for hypothyroidism?

To treat hypothyroidism, your veterinarian might suggest thyroid medication. Though daily and lifelong, this medication is inexpensive and well-tolerated by most dogs, with minimal (if any) side effects. Treatment should return your dog's metabolic rate back to normal levels. With treatment, you will likely see your dog lose weight, regain energy and develop a healthier coat.

Regular checkups with your veterinarian will help ensure your dog is receiving the proper dose of medication and responding to treatment. A simple blood test to check your dog's thyroid hormone level is usually all that's required, although your veterinarian might want to run additional tests.

For more on hypothyroidism, visit pethealthnetwork.com/dog-health

Your dog may be at risk. Recent data shows that 1 in 7 seemingly healthy dogs, when tested, has hypothyroidism (low thyroid) or a nonthyroidal illness.¹

