

## Hypothyroidism in Dogs

Hypothyroidism is the most common hormonal problem in dogs but often goes unrecognized for months because signs of the problem are similar to those of old age. Your dog's coat might not be as shiny or maybe your pet has gained a little weight recently. You just think your pet is showing signs of aging, but think again. Your dog might not be producing enough thyroid hormone.



The good news about hypothyroidism is that it is rarely fatal and is easily treatable with daily hormone supplements. The key is to recognize signs of the problem as early as possible. Some signs are:

- Skin becomes crusty, dull or has a develops a foul odor
- Hair loss
- Failure of immune system
- Weight gain
- Fatigue
- Poor concentration
- Anxiety
- Seizures
- Aggression
- Mood swings
- Dragging feet
- Noisy breathing or change in bark

Today about 50 breeds are genetically prone to develop thyroid disease, most of them being breeds of mid to large size dogs. Mixed breeds and small dog breeds appear to be less prone to the disease.

A veterinarian usually makes diagnosis for the disease through a complete thyroid profile analysis. Treatment for hypothyroidism involves giving dogs a synthetic thyroid hormone called thyroxine. Dogs should return for regular veterinary check-ups so the disease can be monitored and controlled.