

Pala-Tech™
LABORATORIES

The Science of Palatability™



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Unexplained weight gain Dry, flaky skin or greasy skin Skin discoloration

Dry, brittle hair coat

Excessive shedding

Bald spots

Lethargy

Does your dog

Low cold tolerance

Infections, particularly of the skin and ears

Loss of libido

have any of

and infertility in intact males

Irregular heat cycles and infertility in intact females

Changes in behavior

— anxiety

aggression

fear

excessive grooming

these signs?



- Unexplained weight gain
- Dry, flaky skin or greasy skin
- Skin discoloration
- Dry, brittle hair coat
- Excessive shedding
- Bald spots
- Lethargy — the dog acts tired and seems uninterested in usual activities
- Low cold tolerance — the dog seeks warm places
- Infections, particularly of the skin and ears
- Loss of libido and infertility in intact males
- Irregular heat cycles and infertility in intact females
- Changes in behavior — anxiety, aggression, fear, excessive grooming

If yes,

talk with your veterinarian.

These could be the signs of
an underactive thyroid gland,
also known as hypothyroidism.



Hypothyroidism is not life-threatening, but without proper treatment, it can seriously impair your dog's quality of life. The recent development of a tasty, palatable, chewable medication — Canine Thyroid Chewable Tablets — makes it very easy for you to provide the daily medication your dog needs to live comfortably, without the bothersome signs of hypothyroidism.



Why does my dog have hypothyroidism?

Hypothyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland — a butterfly-shaped organ located in the front of the dog's neck — fails to produce enough thyroxine. Thyroxine is a hormone that regulates the body's metabolism, which is the conversion of nutrients into energy. When the thyroid gland does not put out enough thyroxine, body metabolism slows down.

The reason that the thyroid gland becomes underactive is usually due to thyroid inflammation, called thyroiditis, and the cause is not known. There may be a genetic predisposition because the disease seems to occur more in certain breeds.

In a minority of cases, hypothyroidism can be due to other problems, such as a pituitary tumor or cancer of the thyroid gland.

Is hypothyroidism in dogs common?

Yes. Hypothyroidism is one of the most common endocrine disorders of dogs and tends to occur at ages 4 and up. Males and females are equally affected, though among females, hypothyroidism tends to occur more often in spayed than unspayed dogs.



BREEDS AT HIGHER RISK

for hypothyroidism include:

- Afghan Hound • Airedale Terrier • Boxer • Bulldog
- Chinese Shar Pei • Chow Chow • Cocker Spaniel
- Dachshund • Doberman Pinscher • Golden Retriever
- Great Dane • Irish Setter • Miniature Schnauzer •

Note: Hypothyroidism is seldom seen in toy and miniature breed dogs

How is hypothyroidism diagnosed?

Your veterinarian will conduct blood testing to evaluate your dog's thyroid function. Sometimes, additional testing is necessary to confirm the diagnosis since low thyroxine levels can be caused by diseases other than hypothyroidism or by certain medications.

How is hypothyroidism treated?

Daily medication that replaces the thyroid hormone your dog lacks will alleviate virtually all signs of hypothyroidism. This medication, called levothyroxine, is a safe, synthetic compound and is the same active ingredient prescribed for hypothyroid people.

The dosage of levothyroxine your dog will need depends on several factors, such as the dog's weight, metabolism and amount of thyroid hormone circulating in the blood. As these factors change, your dog's dosage of levothyroxine may have to be adjusted.



How do I administer the medication to my dog?

Levothyroxine is now available in a tasty, chewable tablet, which means that hypothyroidism can be treated simply by feeding your dog a treat. Owners no longer have to coax hypothyroid dogs to swallow an unpalatable pill. The tablet can also be mixed in with your dog's food.

Will my dog require any other treatment or tests?

Levothyroxine is the only medication required for most cases of hypothyroidism in dogs. It is important, however, that you have your dog monitored by your veterinarian with periodic blood testing to make sure the dosage of replacement hormone is optimal.

Many veterinary experts on hypothyroidism advise twice-yearly blood testing to ensure the dosage of levothyroxine is correct; your veterinarian may recommend a different blood testing schedule based on your dog's history.

What's the prognosis for my dog?

In the vast majority of cases, levothyroxine treatment enables hypothyroid dogs to lead a comfortable, healthy life free from signs of the disease. In fact, most signs of hypothyroidism resolve just weeks after starting treatment.

The availability of a palatable, chewable levothyroxine tablet makes it easier than ever to successfully manage hypothyroidism in your dog.

