

YORKIES BY ELAINEA

LOW SUGAR

LOW SUGAR CAN BE DEADLY!

This is to inform you about the deadly results from **hypoglycemia**, or low sugar. You need to know the signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia. One of the most serious side effects of too much insulin is hypoglycemia, or low blood glucose (low blood sugar). Hypoglycemia can be a life-threatening and even deadly condition that often happens in the smaller toy breeds if you don't know what to look for. Hypoglycemia usually happens under stressful conditions.

Puppy Stress: #1: Moving to a new home.

The puppy is alone for a long period of time. Not having his siblings or playmates, rough play with children and older or bigger pets, excessive exercise, diet change, or going from well water to city water. No matter how much TLC that you give your new little baby, sometimes it still happens.

Signs of Hypoglycemia

The occurrence of signs depends on how far the blood sugar level drops and how far into the episode the puppy has progressed. They include lethargy (lack of energy) weakness, head tilting, unbalanced wobbling when walking, shivering and uncontrollable trembling, disorientation, convulsions or seizures, inability to stand or hold head up, restlessness, whimpering and high pitched whining or moaning, and coma.

What do I do during an episode?

Your goal first of all is to get some sugar (some kind of syrup, honey or nutri-Stat) in their mouth. Place it on the back of the tongue, in the side of the jaw, or in the roof of the mouth. Stay calm, bring the blood glucose back to a safe level, continue to observe your pet and contact the vet. If your pet is acting strangely, displaying one or several of the above symptoms, you should assume it is due to hypoglycemia and treat it accordingly. This is a situation where it is better to be safe than sorry. If your pet is not hypoglycemic, your treatment may raise its blood sugar for a few hours. If your pet is hypoglycemic, you may save its life. Always have corn syrup or honey available. Corn syrup works well because it is a very pure sugar, and it is liquid. Karo is a good brand name of corn syrup. If Karo is not available, pancake syrup, honey, or even table sugar dissolved in some water will also work. I use nutri-stat or corn syrup during major changes or stressful situations like moving, vet visits, grooming or long play times. Sugar coated cheerios work very well as an everyday treat. If in doubt about your baby having a hypoglycemic episode, call me or your vet. Get some sugar going and keep a close eye on the little baby.

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