Hypothyroid? Symptoms Checklist

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Hypothyroidism, or decreased production of thyroid hormone, can cause many problems in dogs. Hypothyroidism causes alterations in cellular metabolism and, as a result, affects the entire body. It is usually a genetic disease and is thought to be the most common genetic illness in dogs.

Untreated hypothyroidism can cause a lower quality of life for your dog, but the good news is that with the right medication, it is easy to treat.

Hypothyroidism can happen at any age, but the majority of cases appear in dogs in their middle years and older. Hypothyroidism can mimic many other disorders, so if you suspect a condition like this, make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as you can.

Sometimes, in the stress of the moment, owners forget to tell their veterinarian relevant information about their pets. Here is a handy checklist to bring with you to your next veterinary appointment. Check the box beside the question if your dog experiences any of these symptoms.

Check which symptoms your dog exhibits:

- ☐ Tires easily when exercising
- ☐ Has gained weight/is obese
- ☐ Seems to be losing his haircoat
- ☐ Sheds excessively
- ☐ Has extremely dry skin and haircoat
- ☐ Has thickened skin
- ☐ Seems uncomfortable in cold weather
- ☐ Has excessive coloration of the skin

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*

☐ Has undergone a recent behavior change

Once you have completed the checklist, print and take to your veterinarian so you can discuss the results together. In the event your veterinarian decides to prescribe medication to your dog, you may want to print off our Prescription Authorization Form and bookmark this information on how to order a prescription at Drs. Foster and Smith's Licensed Pharmacy, where you can save on all of your faithful friends' prescriptions.

Be sure to let your veterinarian know about any medications or supplements your dog is currently taking, including aspirin or any other NSAIDs. Some medications or supplements may interact in potentially harmful ways; your veterinarian can make the best recommendation for your dog.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*