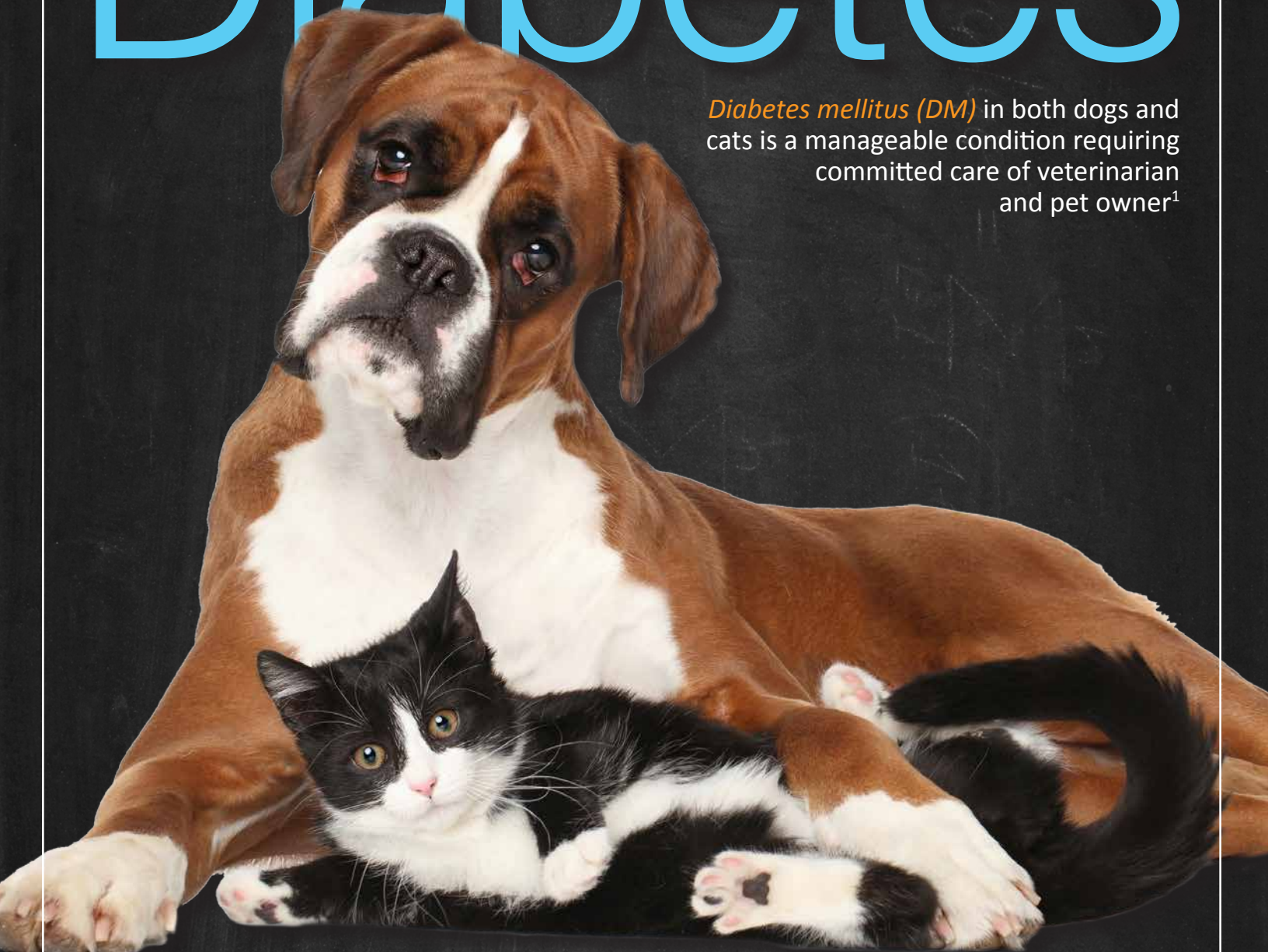


and

Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus (DM) in both dogs and cats is a manageable condition requiring committed care of veterinarian and pet owner¹



+common symptoms¹

Polyuria (excessive urination)
Polydipsia (excessive thirst)
Polyphagia (excessive hunger)
Weight loss
Lethargy
Weakness
Disorientation

Poor body condition
Vision problems
Impaired jumping ability & abnormal gait (cats)
Weakness in rear limbs (cats)
Kidney failure (mainly in cats)

If it goes untreated, animals can develop secondary health problems such as cataracts, urinary tract problems, and possibly coma and even death.⁵

+See your Veterinarian

1. If you detect any of the symptoms above, see your veterinarian.
2. Seek education from your veterinarian on the disease and its proper management.

+If your pet is diabetic, the veterinarian will most likely implement:

1. Insulin therapy
2. Adjustment in diet and weight monitoring
3. Exercise when appropriate
4. Other management recommendations

+home care

1. Administer insulin as recommended by your veterinarian

Monitor² for symptoms

- Return to your veterinarian at the recommended time to ensure proper insulin regulation.
- Optionally, you can home monitor glucose levels for changes.

2. Feed a proper diet³

3. Monitor behavior³

Is animal drinking excessively?³

- Measure the water that is put out and then measure what is left after 12 hours²

Is animal urinating excessively?³

- Is cat box being used more often?
- Is dog needing to be walked more often?
- Are there accidents between the normal times the pet has had to go out?²

4. Establish arrangements for care if owner is going to be away³

5. Educate themselves about diabetes³

+awareness and education⁴

1. Talk to your Veterinarian

Discuss the pet's body condition

Ask for nutritional recommendations that focus on the pet's lifestage and lifestyle

Pay attention to pet food labeling and feeding recommendations

Determine the right amount of exercise and activity needed for the pet

2. Instead of rewarding with food, train pet with interactive rewards such as playing fetch or chasing a laser pointer.

¹felinediabetes.com/AAHADiabetesGuidelines.pdf

²felinediabetes.com/dummies.htm

³felinediabetes.com/AAHADiabetesGuidelines.pdf

⁴aaha.org/pet_owner/about_aaha/why_accreditation_matters/guidelines_position_statements/aaha_weight_management_guidelines_for_dogs_and_cats.aspx

⁵aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/diabetes