

# **BRIDGEWATER VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

## **HYPOGLYCEMIA**

**HYPOGLYCEMIA is caused when a pet's blood sugar drops below normal levels.** Often a reaction to stress, excitement, or over-activity may be the cause. This disease is very common in small puppies, especially the "toy" breeds.

**Hypoglycemia may be INHERITED or simply a result of the body's internal organs developing** more slowly than normal.

### **Signs include:**

1. Lethargy
2. Shivering
3. Wobbly, or unable to stand
4. Semi-comatose or comatose (sleepy)
5. Subnormal body temperature
6. "Fainting" spells in older dogs, particularly during exercise

**Treatment is by replacement of the blood sugar, by IV Injections of Glucose.**  
Recovery is usually very rapid.

### **Home Therapy for when you think an attack is on the verge of happening:**

- 2-3cc Karo Syrup, Honey, or Sugar Water/5 pounds body weight
- Keep Warm
- Keep Quiet
- Limit Exercise
- Bring your pet in to the Hospital to insure there are no other causes

### **Preventative Precautions:**

- Newly arrived puppies, especially **toy breeds**, may require honey or light Karo Syrup daily.
- Feed high quality puppy/kitten foods.
- Monitor food intake to be sure consuming enough food to meet normal body requirements.
- Monitor pets with vomiting and/or diarrhea very closely.
- Notify us if you see any of the following signs:
  - a. Seizures persist or become more severe.
  - b. Seizures in the absence of exercise or stress
  - c. Your pet drinks more water or urinates more frequently.
  - d. Your pet begins to lose weight.