

# **HYPOTHYROIDISM**

Hypothyroidism is a common ailment in middle age to older dogs, although younger dogs can also be affected. It is the result of too little circulating thyroid hormone. Hypothyroidism can have an effect on many different phases of your dog's health—from changes in your dog's skin and hair coat to affecting metabolism and cell function.

The clinical symptoms of hypothyroidism include hair loss, dry, scaly skin, dull hair coat, lethargy, and weight gain. It can also cause some nerve dysfunction. Animals with hypothyroidism are more prone to skin infections and ear infections.

A blood test can be done to confirm the diagnosis of hypothyroidism. This disease can be controlled with a thyroid hormone supplement that is typically administered twice a day. Periodic routine thyroid bloodwork is necessary to ensure that your dog remains happy and healthy.