

Violet Pickles

We would like to introduce you to Violet Pickles, a 13 year old Parsons Jack Russell terrier whose personality is as grand as her name!

Lady Violet (or VP to her friends!) has been a loyal customer for a number of years now and never fails to brighten our day. To illustrate the character we're dealing with, this lovely girl has, over the years, stolen a whole cooked chicken and half a pizza (whilst on a diet), and helped herself to a bunch of grapes which really wasn't very clever as grapes are highly toxic! She has also chomped on 18 chocolates from an advent calendar, a dozen quality street and a box of Maltesers, well, it was Christmas!

When she's back on the wagon, Violet enjoys a prescription diet called WD. This is because Violet has Diabetes Mellitus, or sugar diabetes. WD is a prescription diet which contains high fibre and reduced fat and is used to help maintain weight in diabetic dogs.

After eating, the digestive system breaks food down into various components, including glucose, which is carried into the cells by insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas. Diabetes Mellitus is a condition whereby the body either doesn't produce enough insulin (type 1) or has an inadequate response to the insulin that is produced (type 2). Type 1 is far more common in dogs. In both types of diabetes, blood glucose levels become elevated. This is called hyperglycaemia, and can cause many complicated health problems.





Some cases of diabetes are picked up during routine bloodwork which is why regular check-ups are so important. More often though, you may notice some of the classic symptoms of diabetes which can include an increased appetite, increased thirst and weight loss. These patients are often very lethargic too.

Older female dogs tend to be more prone to diabetes and certain breeds may carry a certain genetic pre-disposition. Obesity is also a big risk factor for the development of diabetes, just as in people.

Once a confirmed diagnosis is made, insulin levels need to be supplemented by injections at home. A daunting prospect for some owners but its very easy to learn and most people find it simple after only a day or two. It takes some time to stabilise diabetic patients and involves regular monitoring and blood testing. Most patients require injections twice a day about 12 hours apart after a meal.

Violet has had her diabetes for nearly 5 years now and is generally pretty stable and doing very well. This is a lot of injections and it would be quite understandable for Violet to get a little grumpy from time to time. She has, however, always been a model patient in all the years we've known her. She has always taken everything in her stride and been kind, friendly and, as her name suggests just a gorgeous little pickle!

Well done Violet Pickles!!!!!!