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## DIABETES INSIPIDUS

### **What is Diabetes Insipidus?**

There are two forms of diabetes in dogs: *diabetes insipidus* (drinking diabetes) and *diabetes mellitus* (sugar diabetes).

Diabetes insipidus is a rare form and is only definitely diagnosed after extensive blood and urine tests.

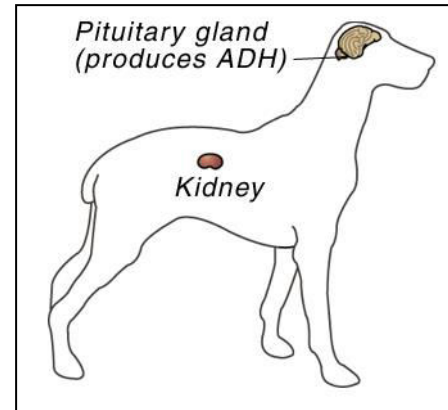
### **Because My Dog is Drinking and Urinating a Lot, is Diabetes Insipidus More Likely?**

There are many causes of increased thirst (polydipsia) and increased urine production (polyuria) including diabetes and kidney disease. It is essential that several diagnostic tests be performed to determine the cause of your pet's problem. Most likely your veterinarian will recommend that the amount of water your pet drinks is quantitated and a urinalysis and kidney/full blood screen tests be performed. If at this time it is determined that DI is possible then a water deprivation test may be recommended to determine if the kidneys can be stimulated to function properly.

### **What Causes Diabetes Insipidus?**

Part of the job of the kidneys is to continually filter water from the blood that passes through them and reestablish the balance of the body's water by reabsorbing fluid from the blood.

Efficient re-absorption requires an adequate level of a hormone known as antidiuretic hormone (ADH) which is produced by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland in the brain. If this hormone is not produced in sufficient quantities or if the kidney fails to respond to it, diabetes insipidus can occur.



### **Can the Condition Be Cured?**

Diabetes insipidus cannot be cured, it can usually be managed fairly well by administering a hormone via daily nasal or eye drops.

### **What is the Prognosis?**

Prognosis is good if we have been able to rule out kidney failure, cancer, or other disease.