



Common “Hypos” and “Hypers” in Canine Health

- ANIMAL WELLNESS, AUGUST 31, 2026



As a dog parent, understanding your furry family member’s health can feel overwhelming. One helpful way to know common canine health conditions is by grouping them. For example, “hypos” (meaning too little of something) and “hypers” (meaning too much of something). Here’s a breakdown of some of the most important hypos and hypers to know about.

Common “Hypos” in Dogs

Hypothyroidism is actually the most common thyroid disorder in dogs — the opposite of hyperthyroidism. The thyroid doesn’t produce enough hormone, leading to weight gain, sluggishness, hair loss, and skin problems.

Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison’s Disease) happens when the adrenal glands don’t make enough cortisol and other hormones. Dogs with this condition may show weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, and even sudden collapse.

Hypoglycemia (Low Blood Sugar) is especially dangerous in puppies and small breed dogs. It can cause trembling, confusion, seizures, and weakness. This is considered a medical emergency.

Hypotrichosis is a condition where dogs are born with little to no hair due to a genetic trait. While some hairless breeds carry this naturally, in other dogs it may signal a health concern.



Hypotension Low blood pressure. Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against blood vessel walls. When it drops too low, organs may not get enough blood flow.

Common “Hypers” in Dogs

Hyperthyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland produces too much thyroid hormone. While this condition is more common in cats, it can affect dogs too. Signs may include weight loss, increased appetite, restlessness, and a rapid heart rate.

Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing’s Disease) is one of the most common hormonal disorders in dogs. It happens when the body produces **too much cortisol**. You might notice your dog drinking and urinating more than usual, gaining weight around the belly, or losing hair.

Hyperestrogenism occurs when a dog has too much estrogen, often linked to ovarian cysts or tumors. Signs can include hair loss, skin changes, and irregular heat cycles in female dogs.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) can affect dogs, often as a result of another underlying condition like kidney disease. It may cause vision problems, seizures, or nosebleeds.

Hyperthermia Dangerously high body temperature. Hyperthermia means a dog’s body temperature rises to a dangerous level. A normal dog temperature is around **101-102.5°F**. Anything significantly above this can become life-threatening. The most serious form is called Heatstroke.

Hyperglycemia High blood sugar. Hyperglycemia means there is too much sugar (glucose) in the blood. This is most commonly linked to diabetes in dogs.

What Should You Do?

If you notice any unusual signs in your dog — changes in weight, energy, coat, drinking habits, or **behavior** — do not wait. These could be early warning signs of a hormonal or systemic condition.

Always reach out to your veterinarian for a proper diagnosis and treatment plan. Early detection can make a huge difference in your dog’s quality of life. Your veterinarian is your best partner in keeping your dog healthy and happy!