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*How Weight Affects Canine Hypothyroidism*

There are many factors that relate to hypothyroidism, a disease common in dogs where the thyroid gland does not produce enough of the hormone Thyroxin, or T4. A common symptom of the disease is a decrease in metabolism. A study was done to find out how weight, age, and other variables affect hypothyroidism. Data was collected and compared from dogs with and without it. Each dog's breed, gender, age, body condition score (body mass index for dogs), weight, and T4 level was collected.

Different tests were done to find relationships from and between these different variables. Graphs were made comparing T4 level with all of the variables, and many different conclusions were reached. A conclusion that was reached is, as the body condition score in a dog increases the chances of that dog having hypothyroidism also becomes greater. Another relationship that was found is that it is more common for males to get hypothyroidism than females. In addition, most dogs that get hypothyroidism are between 25 and 45 kgs. Further, bigger and heavier dogs were found to be more likely to get hypothyroidism than smaller and lighter dogs. Another conclusion that can be made based on the data is that most dogs that get hypothyroidism start showing signs of it above the age of 6. However, the most important conclusion is that as a dog's weight increases, it has a much greater chance to get hypothyroidism.