

# Pet Care NOTES



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## **HYPOTHYROIDISM IN DOGS**

The thyroid is considered the “master gland” in the body and is responsible for many body functions, including metabolism. When the thyroid does not produce enough hormones, it can have a severe impact on a dog’s health. It often occurs in dogs between the ages of 4 and 10 years, and is more likely to affect midsized to large-breed dogs. Symptoms include weight gain in a dog that does not seem to be eating much. Two thirds of dogs with hypothyroidism also experience lethargy. The dog’s coat will not appear very shiny, and it may experience excessive shedding. (This pattern is most commonly seen in the lumbar area.) A veterinarian can diagnose hypothyroidism with a blood test.

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