







## Treatment

**Addisonian crisis.** If your dog has collapsed with sudden symptoms of Addison's disease, they will need lifesaving, emergency treatment. This is likely to include a fluid drip, steroids directly into a vein and various other medications to stabilise their condition. Once they are stable, treatment to control their Addison's can begin.

**Standard treatment.** Treatment for Addison's disease requires regular medication for the rest of your dog's life. Most dogs need two types of medication to control Addison's disease:

1. A monthly injection, given by your vet (to replace aldosterone)
2. Daily tablets, given at home (to replace cortisol)

If treatment is stopped, symptoms will return so it's important to follow your vet's advice and give all medication as directed. Watch our video for guidance on how to give your dog a tablet.

**Monitoring.** It is important to monitor your dog for any new symptoms and make sure you attend all their check-up appointments, they will receive a health check at each appointment and your vet will perform repeat blood tests from time to time.

**Avoiding stress.** Try to avoid stressful situations for your dog; their lack of cortisol means that stress is likely to make them unwell. Your vet may advise a higher dose of medication at times of stress e.g. fireworks night or a house move. Never adjust your dog's medication without speaking to your vet first.

## Outlook

Once a successful treatment regime has started, the outlook for most dogs with Addison's is very good. A dog with well-controlled Addison's is likely to live a relatively normal life.

## Cost

Addison's is a condition that requires lifelong treatment and regular check-ups. For this reason, treatment for a dog with Addison's can become very expensive. It's important to speak openly to your vet about your finances, the cost of treatment, as well as what you think is right for your dog.

Consider insuring your dog as soon as you get them, before any signs of illness start. This will ensure you have all the support you need to care for them.

Published: September 2019