

## **Hypoglycemia in Yorkshire Terriers**

Hypoglycemia, simply known as low blood sugar level, is very common with all small breed puppies including Yorkshire Terriers and is caused by a sudden drop of blood sugar. The most common case of hypoglycemia in puppies occurs at the age of birth to 4 months. Hypoglycemia can be easily treated at the earlier stages, but can also become fatal. Owners should be warned that numerous puppies are lost, needlessly, to hypoglycemia, because of lack of knowledge by the owner, breeder or veterinarian.

Owners should understand that the true meaning of hypoglycemia is a chronic and ongoing condition caused by the overproduction of insulin by the pancreas. One isolated case of hypoglycemia can be caused by the puppy's reaction to stress or starvation. It is also proven that puppies, of any breed, are more likely to develop hypoglycemia at a younger age and this fact is even greater for small breeds. Most hypoglycemia is preceded by stress such as cold weather, change in environment, over-handling, teething and many more.

The common signs of hypoglycemia can be that the puppy becomes slower and non-active. Next, it will start to tremble or shiver. It may go on to confusion, wobbly gait or drooling from the mouth and even worse, seizure. The puppy will become lifeless and at this stage, their gums may become grayish or white in color instead of the healthy bright pink. If this goes on, the puppy can become lifeless and motionless and can go into shock and even die.

At the earlier stages of hypoglycemia, rubbing of Nutri-Cal on the puppy's gums, under the tongue and on the roof of the mouth can cure the puppy. Also, get a heating blanket and slowly warm up the puppy to proper temperature (100-102 F). Finally, relieve all stress that may have caused this illness. If you puppy still is not revived within 5 – 10 minutes call your veterinarian immediately to report that you have a hypoglycemic puppy.