Canine Addison's Resources & Education (CARE)

is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing resources and education to improve the lives of dogs with Addison's disease. We do this by helping owners, breeders, and others understand the disease and its management. We also partner with rescue organisations who are willing to take an Addison's dog into their care.

CARE keeps up with the latest developments related to Addison's and continually updates its website with educational documents.

We are also able to provide suggested resources for financial assistance.

"*Proper management* of Addison's disease allows a dog to achieve a *normal lifespan* and experience an *excellent quality of life*."
- Dr. Nancy Kay, DVM, DACVIM

Arabella has Atypical Addison's

Contact Us

CARE has an informative website with educational information, along with photos, stories of dogs with Addison's, and a map showing dogs with Addison's throughout the world. Since we are international, our website is translated into many different languages.

CARE makes use of Facebook to help owners of dogs with Addison's connect with each other. We are a large community of people who are passionate about providing the best possible care for our dogs as well as raising awareness about Addison's. When our dogs were diagnosed, we felt frightened, thinking our dogs might die. Learning so many new terms and concepts seemed overwhelming. Wondering how we would pay for medications and blood tests was very concerning. Finding support to help us through the scary times when our dogs were first diagnosed or when we were still searching for a diagnosis was comforting. We no longer felt alone. In CARE, we help each other and learn together how to help our dogs feel their very best.

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Canine Addison's Resources & Education (CARE)
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Find us on Facebook!

Canine Addison's Disease
"The Great Pretender"

Simba was adopted with Addison's

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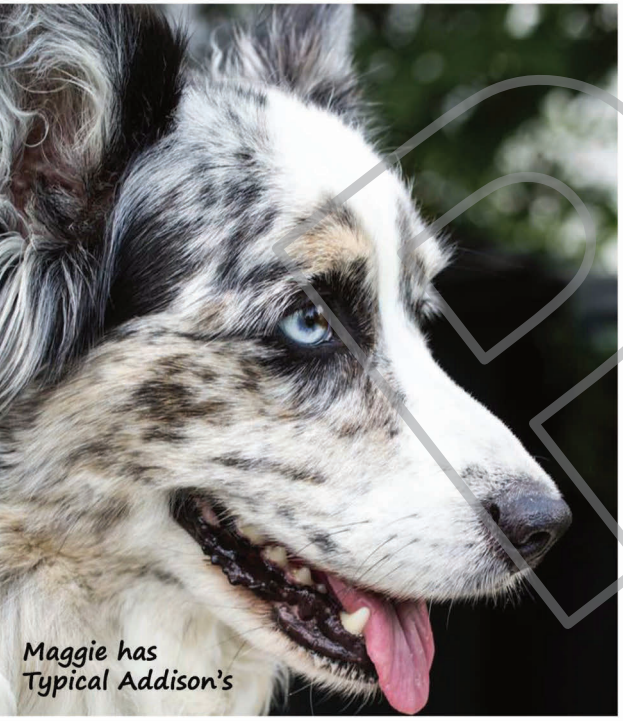
What is Addison's Disease?

Addison's disease is a chronic endocrine system disorder that occurs when the adrenal glands fail to produce sufficient hormones required to sustain life.

Although Addison's is commonly diagnosed between the ages of 2 and 8 years, it can be diagnosed at any age.

Any number of breeds and mixes may be affected by Addison's disease, but several breeds are highly represented. These include Standard Poodles, Portuguese Water Dogs, West Highland White Terriers, Great Danes, Labrador Retrievers, German Shorthaired Pointers, Bearded Collies, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. We are also starting to see it in Labradoodles and Goldendoodles.

With proper medication, dogs with Addison's live long, healthy lives. They can do anything other dogs do, including agility, hunting, hiking, playing, being therapy dogs, and all the activities they were bred to do.



Maggie has Typical Addison's

Flip has Typical Addison's

Symptoms

Addison's is known as "The Great Pretender" because it mimics other diseases, such as kidney failure, and is often tricky to diagnose.

The symptoms of Addison's disease can include any combination of those listed below. Before diagnosis, symptoms may wax and wane over a period of months or years. You might get the sense that something is not right, but you can't put your finger on it.

- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Dehydration
- Collapse
- Exercise intolerance
- Frequent drinking or urination
- Tremors or shaking
- Low heart rate
- Coat changes
- Hind end weakness

If not diagnosed and treated in time, Addison's disease can be fatal. If your dog is experiencing some of these symptoms, please take your dog to the vet for diagnostic testing.

Diagnosis & Treatment

The only definitive test for diagnosing Addison's disease is the ACTH stimulation test, which is typically accompanied by a blood profile.

If a dog is deficient in cortisol only, he or she will need a daily corticosteroid, such as Prednisone. This kind of Addison's is often referred to as Atypical Addison's. Some dogs will remain Atypical for life. Others may transition to Typical Addison's.

In Typical Addison's, dogs can no longer produce cortisol or aldosterone, the hormone that helps control sodium and potassium. This causes the sodium to drop too low and the potassium to rise dangerously high. Symptoms should start to occur before this happens, alerting you to seek care immediately. At diagnosis, IV fluids are administered to bring the electrolytes back into balance. This type of Addison's is treated with either a monthly injection (Zycortal or Percorten) plus a daily corticosteroid or with daily Florinef tablets. Different medications are available in different countries.

Canine Addison's Resources & Education (CARE) is available to help you understand the disease, the treatment suggested by your veterinarian, and what to expect once your dog is diagnosed. We can help you learn to manage Addison's so your dog can enjoy a wonderful life.

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