



**Dear Doctor:**  
My 7-year-old female poodle has been drinking lots of water for about a month and when I took her to my veterinarian he tested the urine (a "screening test," he said), and said that she might have sugar diabetes and that more tests were needed. Is this possible? Should I spend the money on the other tests?  
—B.D., Rochester

to any other organs. Your own veterinarian can then advise on the proper handling of the condition in your poodle. In many cases, insulin injections have to be given.

**Dear Doctor:**  
Our 3-year-old poodle scratches herself from morning 'til night. We groom her regularly and there are no signs of fleas, ticks or lice. There are no red, inflamed spots, no signs of eczema. What's wrong?  
A.W., Garden City

**Dear B.D.:**  
Run—do not walk—back to your veterinarian with your pet! Sugar diabetes does occur with some regularity in dogs and cats, and early diagnosis is vital for the successful treatment of the condition. A number of laboratory tests are needed to confirm the suspicion of the disease and also to determine if there has been damage done

**Dear A.W.:**  
There might be a couple of things involved here: her diet might lack the amount of fat required for a healthy coat. Some animals seem to require more than others. Try adding a spoonful of cooking oil to her evening meal. This may help produce a healthier

skin and shinier coat. Caution: remember that the added fat can also increase her weight. Another thing to consider during the winter is if she spends a portion of her day laying in front of the heat register, the excessive heat will dry her coat and cause scratching.



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