

Dear Doctor:
My "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 ia "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

Dear B.D.:
Run—do not walk—back to your veterinarian with your pet! Sugar diabetes does occur with some regularity in
dags 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

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

Dear Doctor:

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 exzema. What's wrong?

Garden, City

Dear A.W.:

There might be a couple of things involved here: her diet might lack the amount of fat required for a healthy coal. Some animals seem to require more than others. Try adding a spoonful of cooking oil to her evening meat.

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.

The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association welcomes questions from readers. While each one cannot be an-swered individually, questions of general interest will appear in this column. Write to:

About Animals, SEMVA, P.O. Box



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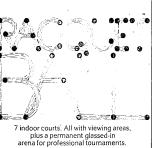
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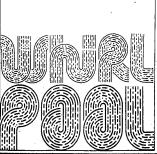














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