

Executive Director - Lija Day
720-207-7584
info@coservicedogs.com

Director Of Training - Sharon Davis
303-233-5028
sharon@coservicedogs.com

Diabetic Alert and Response Dogs Hypoglycemia Alert Dogs

Diabetic/Hypoglycemia Alert Dogs are a new way to protect yourself from dangerous lows or highs in blood glucose levels. Instances where dogs could be invaluable are when the person with diabetes has hypoglycemia unawareness and can't feel when an episode is coming on, or in the case of a child who is sleeping or too young to tell his or her parents that something is wrong.

Dogs are being trained, much like other detection assistance dogs, to become sensitive to their owner's glucose levels. They have the ability, with their keen sense of smell to warn their owners even before symptoms of hypoglycemia are felt. People who have rising or falling blood glucose levels give off a different chemistry than when their blood sugars are normal.

- Trained dogs can detect both low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) & high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) These dogs alert their owners by licking, jumping at them or barking amongst other things.
- It is believed that the dogs are reacting to scents created by chemical changes related to glucose imbalance, but no one knows exactly which chemicals cause the scent.
- Diabetic/Hypoglycemia Alert Dogs have provided a great sense of relief to people with diabetes and their families, including parents of young children with diabetes.
- Currently, there are only a few groups in the United States that are training assistance dogs to sense hypoglycemia. The training requires years of expensive work, which severely limits the number of people who can be paired with dogs. For those who do get the chance, however, the benefit can be remarkable.
- "The first time that dog gets you up in the middle of the night because your child is dropping into a serious low, rapidly you realize it's worth every penny you spent, and every minute you had to wait,"
- Mark Ruefenacht, a forensic scientist said "Clients are coming back saying, 'I have never had better control of my blood sugar in my life as I have since I got this dog.'"