

COBALAMIN DEFICIENCY IN DOGS & CATS

Cobalamin Deficiency¹

- Cobalamin deficiency alone can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, but this deficiency is most often a comorbidity with other gastrointestinal diseases.
- Cobalamin deficiency may exacerbate the symptoms of gastrointestinal disease.
- Patients with cobalamin deficiency may not respond to the treatment of an underlying gastrointestinal disease unless cobalamin supplementation is implemented.
- Cobalamin deficient dogs and cats usually show clinical signs only of GI disease, which may be the cause or the effect of cobalamin deficiency. Signs can include:
 - Weight loss
 - Central neuropathies
 - Peripheral neuropathies
 - Immunodeficiencies

Potential Candidates For Cobalamin Supplementation¹⁻⁵

Common causes of cobalamin deficiency:

- Chronic and severe small intestinal disease
- Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)
 - As many as 82% of dogs with EPI may be cobalamin deficient
 - Most cats with EPI are cobalamin deficient
- Hyperthyroidism in cats
- Hepatic lipidosis in cats
- Chronic renal failure in cats

Less common causes include:

- Short-bowel syndrome
- An exclusively vegetarian or vegan diet
- Hereditary cobalamin deficiency
- Diabetes
- Hypothyroidism in dogs

Cobalamin Concentration Testing¹

For a sick animal, blood serum cobalamin concentrations appear to decrease more slowly than cellular levels, which are more clinically significant. Thus, **cobalamin supplementation should be considered even when serum cobalamin concentration is “low-normal.”**

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION FROM



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