

Dachshunds Get Diabetes, Too!

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Summary

Diabetes mellitus or “sugar diabetes” can affect people and their animals.

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Table of Contents

What is diabetes? 4

Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes 8

Clues of Diabetes 10

What will happen at the doctor's office? 14

What if I have diabetes or my pet has diabetes? 18

Did you know ... ? 22

Word Bank 24



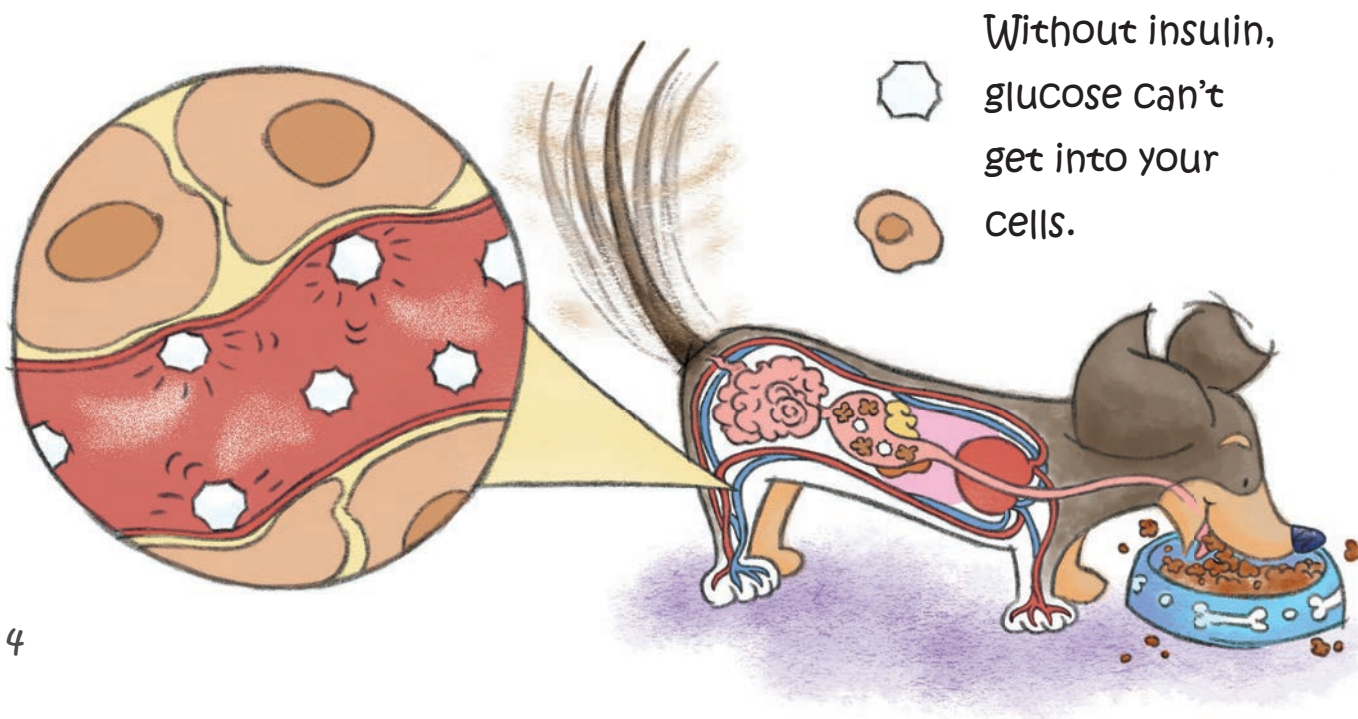
What is diabetes?

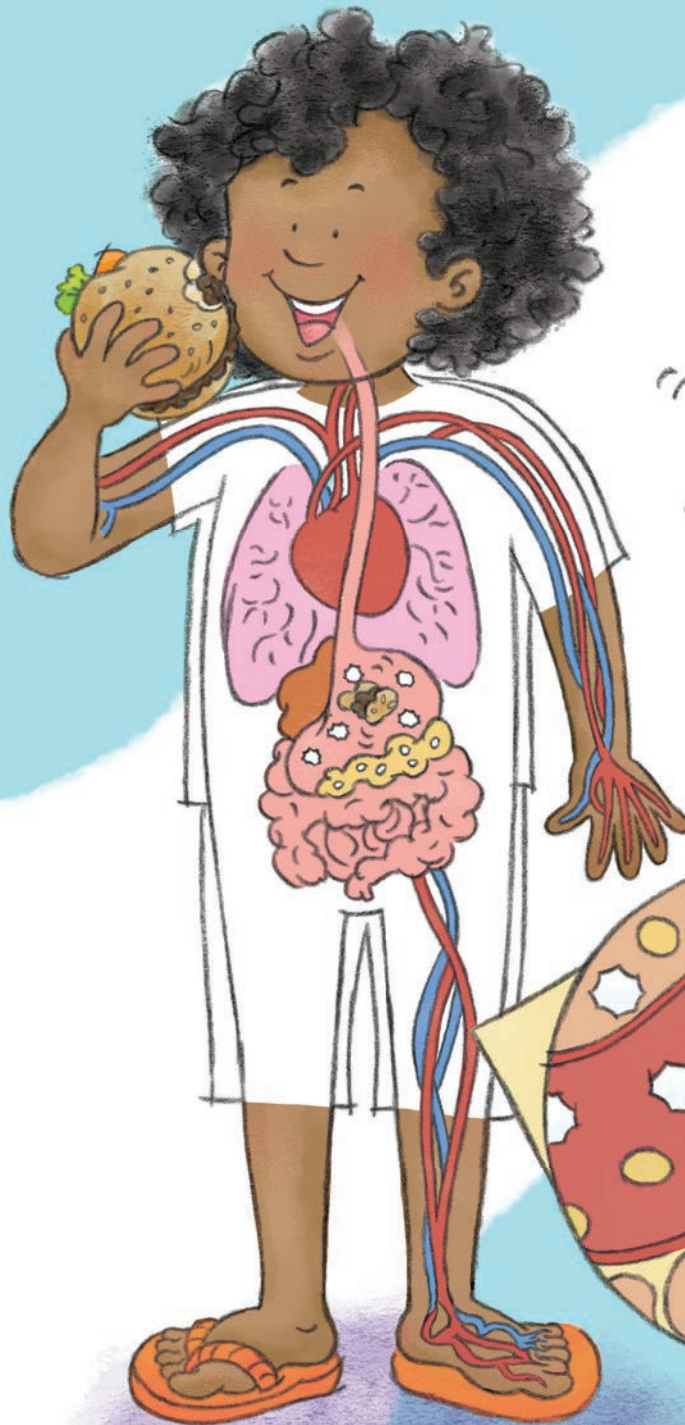
The full scientific name for diabetes is “diabetes mellitus” or “sugar diabetes.”

When you eat, the food gets turned into sugar that powers your body. The sugar travels to the different parts of your body in your blood, so we call it “blood sugar.” The scientific name for “blood sugar” is blood glucose.

Your body is made up of tiny parts called cells. You have heart cells, muscle cells, skin cells—every part of your body has its own type of cell.

Glucose needs to get inside your cells to power them up.





But when it
helps out, t
glucose *can* get
into your cells!

Pretend that your cells are tiny machines that need batteries to work.
The batteries are the glucose. Insulin is the key that opens
the doors so you can put the batteries in the cell.

Sometimes there are problems and the glucose can't get into your cells.
The glucose builds up in your blood and you get high blood sugar.
This is called diabetes.

There are different kinds of diabetes. In this book, we are going to learn
about two kinds of diabetes that people and their animals can get. Remember:
even though people and their animals can both get diabetes, you can't give
diabetes to your pet, and your pet can't give you diabetes.





Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes

The first kind of diabetes is called Type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes happens when your body doesn't make insulin, so the doors to the cell can't get unlocked to let the glucose in. Kids, dogs, and even cats can get Type 1 diabetes. There is nothing that kids or animals do to cause their diabetes. It just happens.

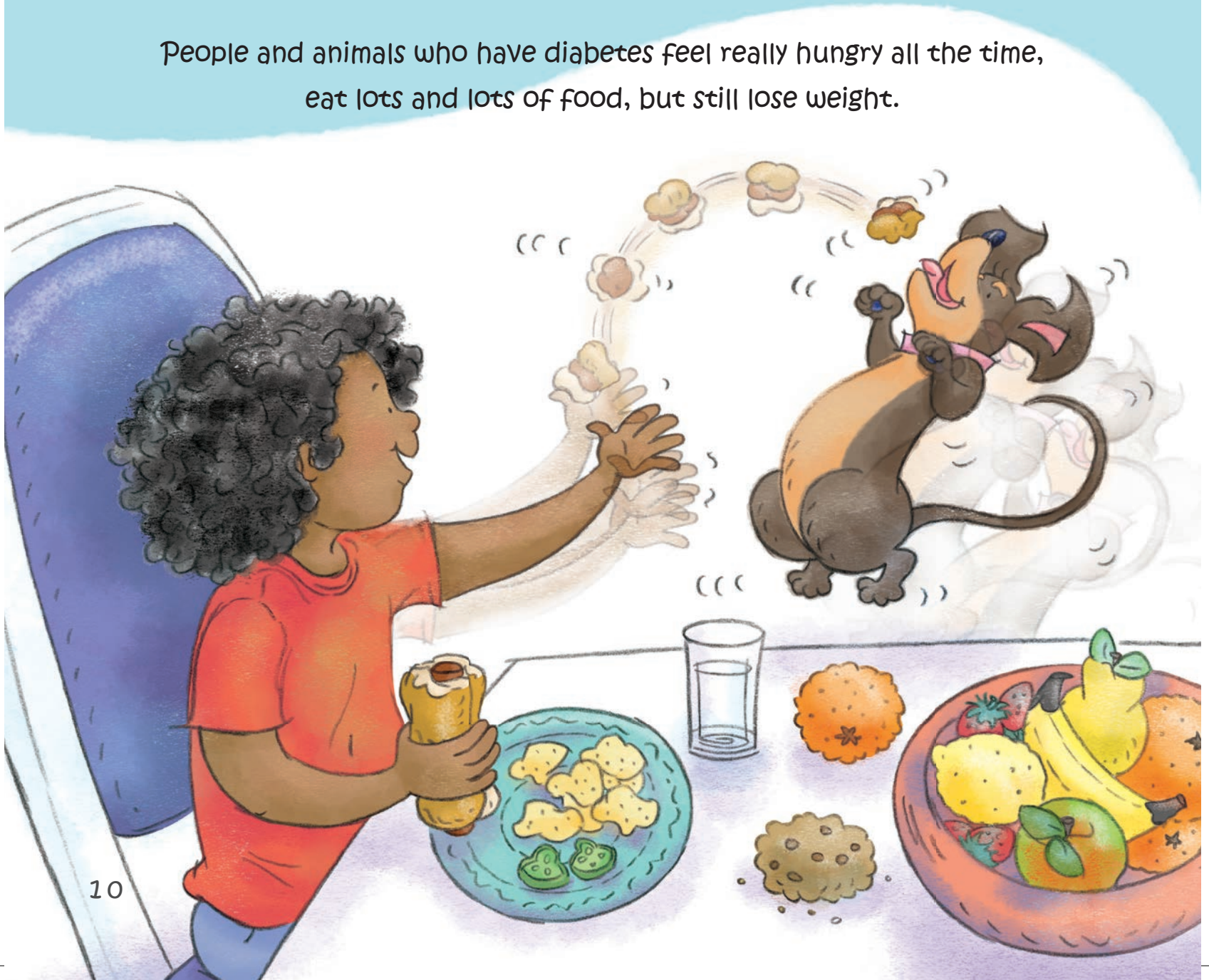


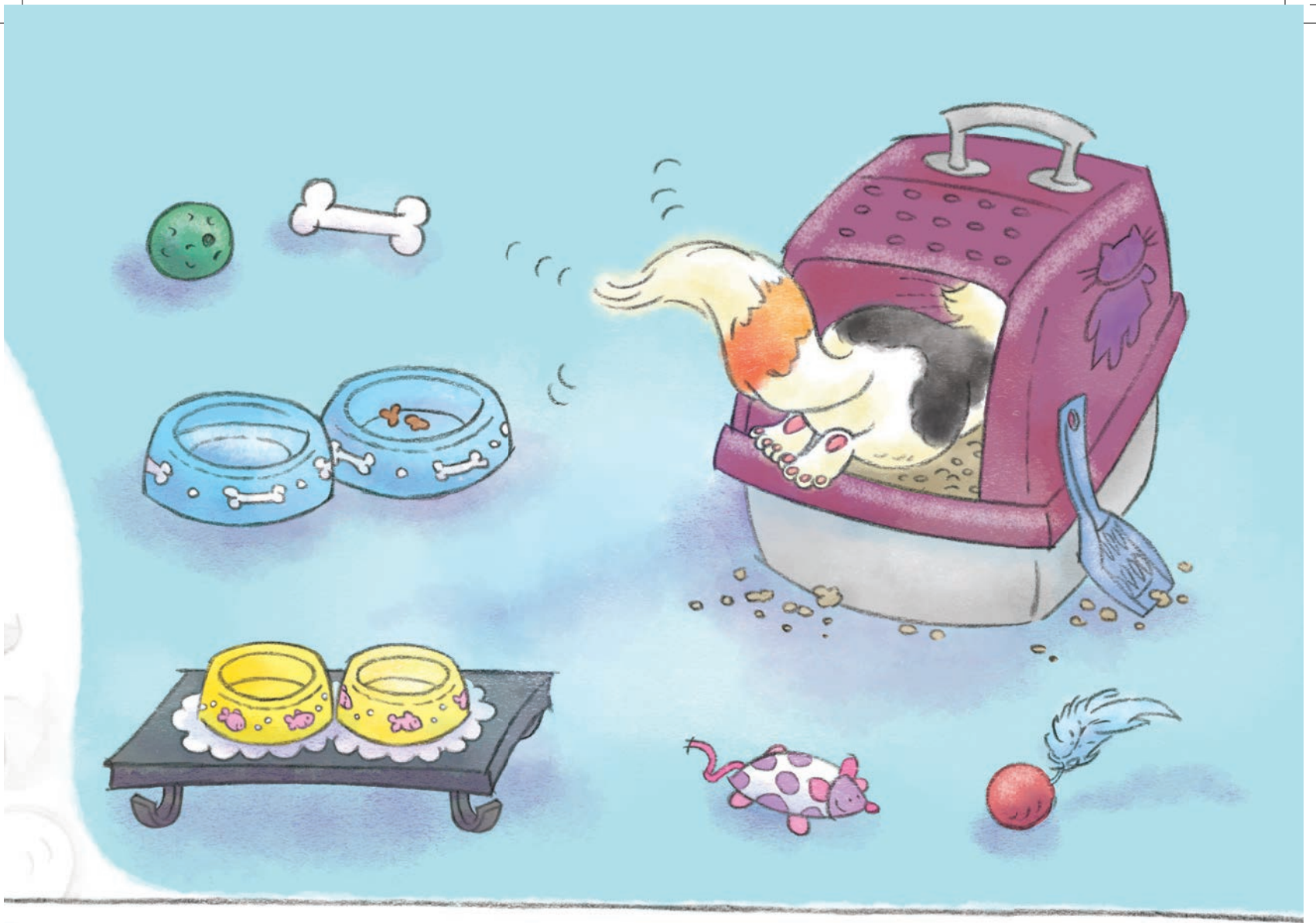


The second kind of diabetes is called Type 2 diabetes.
Type 2 diabetes happens when the cells don't have enough doors
to let the glucose in or the insulin key doesn't work to unlock the door.
This happens sometimes in adults, cows, and cats.

Clues of Diabetes

People and animals who have diabetes feel really hungry all the time, eat lots and lots of food, but still lose weight.





People and animals who have diabetes are also thirsty all the time, so they drink a lot. They also pee a lot because they are drinking so much.

You should see a doctor if you or your animal has clues of diabetes.

You would see a human doctor or a physician.



You would take your pet to see an animal doctor or a Veterinarian.



What will happen at the doctor's office?

If you have clues of diabetes, your physician might ask:

1. How many times do you eat every day?

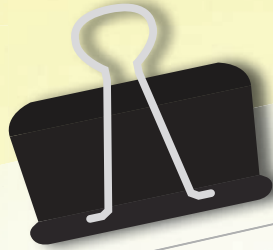
2. Are you losing weight?

3. How many times do you drink every day?

4. How much do you drink?

5. Do you have to pee all the time?

If your pet has clues of diabetes, your veterinarian might ask:



1. How many times does your pet eat every day?

2. Is your pet losing weight?

3. Is your pet drinking more water than usual?

4. How many times does your pet pee every day?

Next, the doctor might check some things.



The doctor will do a wellness exam on you

The doctor might collect some blood to see if there is too much glucose in the blood. Sometimes the doctor might need to check for glucose in the blood a few times. The first time will be after you or your pet hasn't eaten for a while. The doctor may also check for glucose after you or your pet have eaten a big meal or have drunk a sugary drink.



SLURP!



What if I have diabetes or my pet has diabetes?

Diabetes can be controlled by using insulin, eating differently, or



Regular visits to the doctor for you,



and your veterinarian for your pet, will help control diabetes.

If you have diabetes, your physician will have you check your blood sugar to make sure it doesn't get too high or too low. If you have Type 1 diabetes, you can use insulin to control your blood sugar. Insulin is only given by injection using a very tiny needle. Sometimes with Type 2 diabetes, you can control your blood sugar with diet and exercise. Sometimes you can swallow a pill that will help lower your blood glucose. Sometimes you need to inject insulin.



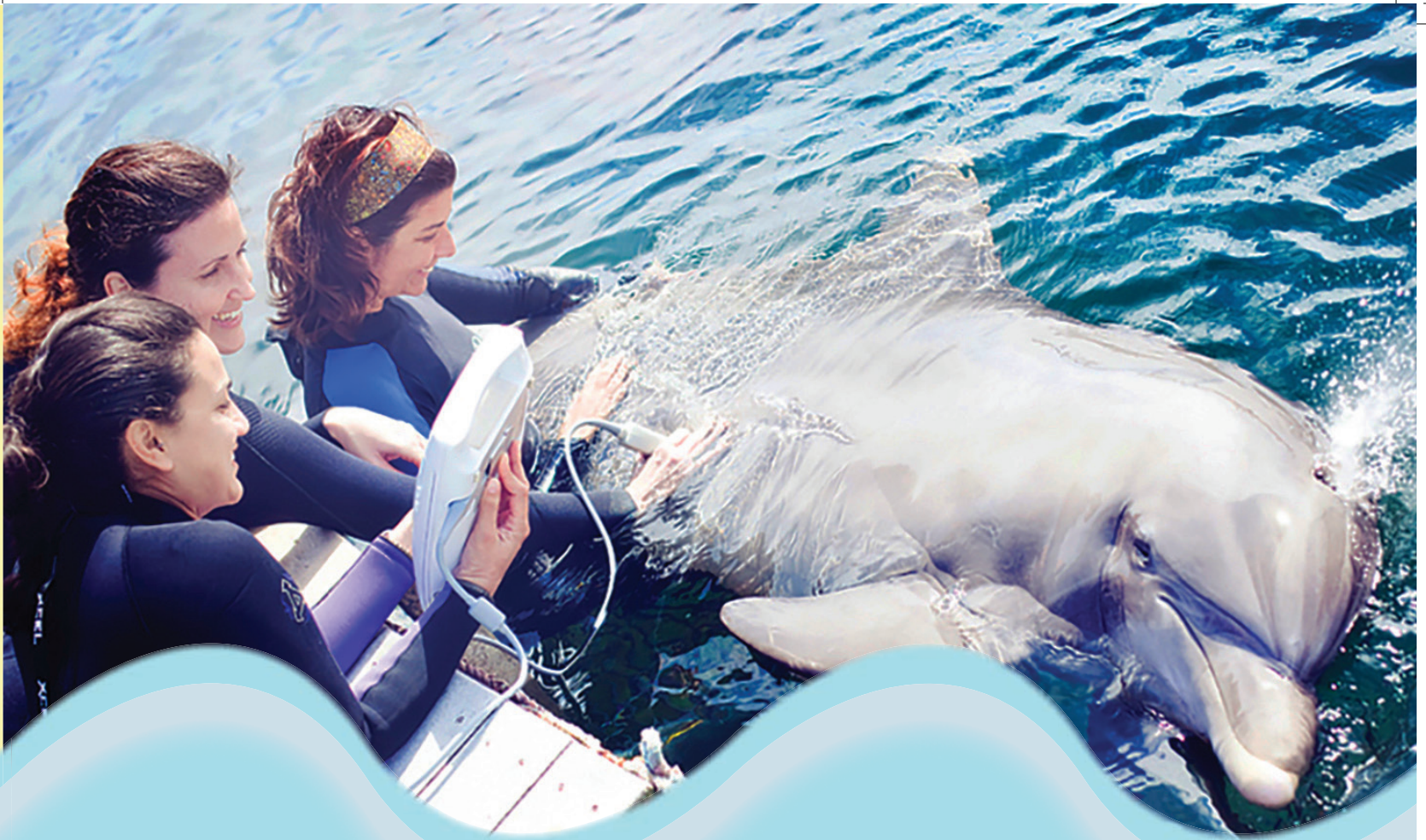
If your pet has diabetes, you might have to change your pet's diet and have your pet exercise more. You might have to bring your pet to the veterinarian to check its blood sugar. Usually, you will need to inject your pet with insulin.



Did you know ... ?



Veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Venn-Watson leads a team of scientists at the National Marine Mammal Foundation who are researching diabetes with dolphins. These scientists are studying how bottlenose dolphins control their blood glucose to learn better ways to help people with diabetes.



The research with dolphins might even help scientists develop a breath test to check for diabetes. Studying dolphins could result in a cure for diabetes in people.

Word Bank

cells

diabetes

glucose

inject

insulin

physicians

research

scientists

veterinarians

