

## SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

*Dr. Richard Goldstein urges owners who notice the signs of diabetes to seek veterinary care as soon as possible, since a number of severe disorders may emerge if the condition is allowed to progress.*

*One such condition is peripheral neuropathy, which results from diabetes-related nerve damage affecting an animal's feet and legs. With this condition, an animal will show signs of weakness in its hind limbs. It may begin to drag its rear end along the ground and may eventually refuse to stand on all fours.*

*Another perilous condition is diabetic ketoacidosis, which is caused by excessively high levels of blood sugar, inadequate amounts of insulin, and the buildup of certain acids (ketones) in the blood. Signs of this condition, which is potentially fatal, include vomiting, loss of appetite, profound weakness, and low blood pressure. Without prompt infusion of fluids and insulin, an animal with this condition is likely to go into a coma and die.*