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## FACT SHEET

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>ADDISON'S DISEASE (HYPOADRENOCORTICISM)</b>
<b>Variety Affected:</b>	Toy, Miniature & Standard.
<b>Description:</b>	Failure of the adrenal glands to secrete the corticosteroid hormones. In primary Addison's this is usually due to autoimmune damage to the adrenal cortex.
<b>Symptoms:</b>	Initial symptoms are vague including depression, lack of appetite, vomiting and/or diarrhea with abdominal pain and muscle weakness. In an acute crisis, symptoms include low blood pressure with weakness and shivering and impaired kidney function.
<b>Mode of Inheritance:</b>	Recent research on both Standard Poodles and Portuguese Water Dogs suggests that Addison's is a polygenic trait with multiple genes influencing the development of Addison's disease.
<b>Method of Diagnosis:</b>	Blood cortisol level determination (low); CBC (complete blood count) in which certain white blood cells occur in higher than normal numbers; abnormal (low) ratio of sodium to potassium. A definitive diagnosis is by an ACTH stimulation test.
<b>Age at Onset:</b>	Varies.
<b>Treatment:</b>	Drugs to replace the missing hormones for the remainder of the dog's life. Florinef given orally daily, or Percoten V given by injection every 21 – 30 days (or sometimes longer than 30 days) and Prednisone.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Addison's is fatal if left undiagnosed and untreated. Dogs with Addison's may have a crisis during periods of stress; i.e., during boarding or grooming, etc. No dog that has been diagnosed with Addison's should be used in a breeding program. Breeders should proceed under the assumption that Addison's is a polygenic trait.

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