

Caring For Your Diabetic Pet

PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

Amount of food we have stabilised your pet on:

Time of day Insulin is to be given:

Units of Insulin to be given:



Contact Information

Telephone (24 hours): 01472 347054
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FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT/BLOOD GLUCOSE RETEST

Please bear in mind when making the appointment that we will need to test the blood glucose levels 4-6 hours after the morning dose of insulin is given.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.

What is Diabetes and how is it controlled?

Diabetes can affect both dogs and cats. It is a condition where there is a higher than normal level of glucose (sugar) in the blood and urine. The aim of treatment is to control blood glucose levels by simple injections, exercise, and dietary management. Regular monitoring is essential to maintain good control of all diabetic patients.

How to manage Diabetes at home...

- Always feed at the same times each day. The first feed is given in the morning, e.g. 8am and the second ideally around 12 hours later, so 8pm. Then 30 minutes after your pet has had his/her meal, you can give the insulin injection.
- After passing the needle through the skin, remember to withdraw the plunger to check that the tip of the needle is not accidentally in a blood vessel before injecting the insulin.
- If they do not eat, give **half** the insulin dose. If your pet eats and is sick, again only give **half** the insulin dose. If you are unable to give the full insulin dose for two consecutive days, please contact us as we will need to see your animal.
- If you give the injection and something goes wrong so that not all the insulin is injected **DO NOT GIVE ANYMORE INSULIN**. Just give the normal injection again the following day. If you try to give the injection and miss completely so that no insulin is injected, simply repeat the injection. Each syringe and needle can be used up to five times, although if you feel it is losing its sharpness and is becoming difficult to push through the skin, use a new one.
- The insulin should always be kept upright in the main compartment of the fridge (not in the door) and each bottle can only be used for a maximum for 28 days once opened. Please return the needles and bottles to us for correct disposal.

- Hypoglycaemia** is when the blood glucose level drops too low. The signs you may notice include
 - Lethargy (tiredness)
 - Weakness
 - shivering/muscle twitching
 - fits/seizures/unconsciousness

If you notice any of these signs please rub either honey or a sugary solution on to your pet's gums and contact the practice ASAP. Don't give any insulin.

- Hyperglycaemia** occurs when the blood glucose level is too high. You will notice the signs similar to those prior to diabetes being diagnosed. These include
 - drinking, eating and urinating more
 - exercise intolerance
 - cataracts developing.

If you notice any of these signs contact the practice as an adjustment to your pet's insulin dose may be required.