

DIABETES

FREQUENTLY

Asked Questions



HUON VALLEY
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL



My pet has not eaten as normal Do I still give insulin as usual?

No. Give only HALF the normal dose. If your pet is on 7 units give 3 units. If 5 units is your normal dose - give 2 units. If the normal dose is 4 units - give 2 units etc.



How will I know if my pet has low blood sugar?

Looking wobbly or overly sedated/excessively sleepy after a dose of insulin MAY indicate low blood sugar. This can potentially be serious.



What should I do if I suspect my pet has low blood sugar?

If your pet will eat - then feed a normal sized meal as soon as you suspect low blood sugar levels. If this does not correct the changes you noted - offer something sweet like sugar water or a teaspoon of honey. If this still does not correct the changes - seek emergency veterinary advice urgently.

If your pet will not eat - seek emergency veterinary advice immediately.



My pet is still drinking excessively and seems overly hungry despite having been started on a dose of insulin recommended by my vet - should I increase the dose?

No. It will often take a week or more for a newly changed dose of insulin to begin to become fully effective. Increasing the dose without Veterinary advice, may lead to potentially serious low blood sugar levels. Stabilising a diabetic patient is a process and not something which is achieved overnight. Do not increase your pet's insulin dose without consulting your vet.



I have accidentally overdosed my pet with insulin. What should I do?

Offer food immediately while you seek emergency veterinary advice. An overdose of insulin is potentially life threatening and needs immediate veterinary advice/care.



My pet's insulin has been left out of the fridge for a day. What should I do?

Contact your veterinarian. Insulin is temperature sensitive and needs to be refrigerated in order to work reliably.



I have just injected my pet with insulin and am not sure if I gave the whole dose correctly. Should I give another dose to be sure the correct dose has been given?

No. an overdose of insulin can be very serious. It is better to miss a dose than to risk over-dosing.



What should I do with my used insulin syringes/needles?

We will provide you with a dedicated sharps disposal container. All used syringes and needles should be placed in this container. When the container is full- return it to us for safe disposal.



I have a diabetic cat. I have noticed some changes in activity levels and hunger/thirst despite not changing insulin dose. What should I do?

Contact your vet immediately. Cats with diabetes can sometimes go into remission - especially in the first few weeks after being diagnosed. This can sometimes lead to the dose of insulin you are giving being too high. See advice above regarding low blood sugar levels.



I have returned later than usual from work. Should I still give the insulin dose even though it is going to be late?

If you are going to be more than 90 minutes later than your usual time then, no. Skip tonight's insulin but give it as normal tomorrow morning. If you are able to delay tomorrow morning's dose by an hour, then you can make an exception to the above provided that your evening dose is not more than two and a half hours later than usual. If in doubt- DO NOT GIVE INSULIN.

CONTACT US

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