



Diabetes

Diabetes is a medical condition that occurs when the body does not produce enough insulin. This insulin is needed for the body to detect glucose in the blood, which is the main energy source for the cells of the body. Without insulin to properly distribute the glucose, the body believes it is “starving” and starts to break down fat and muscle tissue to survive. All along, there has been plenty of glucose in the blood, but the body has not had access to it. Therefore, we see an increase in blood glucose results on bloodwork; the body cannot use it and it accumulates in the blood. We understand this is overwhelming and confusing so please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns. **With proper treatment, diet, and exercise, your diabetic pet can lead a normal and happy life with you.**

Symptoms:

- ~ Excessive drinking
- ~ Excessive urinating
- ~ Excessive eating
- ~ Weight loss

Treatment:

- ~ Insulin injections under the skin twice daily
- ~ Possible diet change
- ~ Regular blood glucose checks until regulated – weekly or monthly
- ~ Routine exams, bloodwork, and urinalysis to monitor – this can be every 6 months or yearly

How to Give Insulin Injections:

- ~ Insulin is given by injection under the skin with a special syringe and tiny needle
- ~ Injections should be 12 hours apart
- ~ Must be given with a meal
- ~ Do NOT change insulin dose unless directed by a veterinarian
- ~ Insulin can be kept in the refrigerator or at room temperature
- ~ Do NOT shake - instead, roll vial gently between hands to “mix up” before each injection

Hypoglycemia: Low Blood Sugar

- ~ This is a diabetic emergency!
- ~ Usually happens with an insulin overdose when the pet does not eat enough to balance out insulin injection
- ~ Pet will appear wobbly, unstable, or “drunk”
- ~ Shows weakness, lethargy, tremors, and/or seizures
- ~ Try to get pet to eat
- ~ Can administer light Karo syrup, honey, or sugar water to increase blood glucose quickly

(Treatment log on back side)

