

Managing your cat's diabetes



Today, the veterinarian diagnosed your cat (name) _____ with diabetes. To manage this disease, your pet needs specialized home care.

Our doctor recommends your pet receive (amount) _____ of (diet) _____ (frequency) _____ a day. Be sure your cat always eats when receiving an insulin injection and keep food available at all times. Remember, if your cat does not eat the recommended amount, the doctor may alter the insulin dosage, so contact us immediately if you notice any change in your pet's eating habits.

Insulin will help manage your pet's diabetes. Your pet receives (amount) _____ of (brand) _____ (frequency) _____ a day. Doses should be given at _____ intervals. If your cat only eats a portion of a meal, you may need to give less insulin. If your cat does not eat, you may need to skip the insulin. Always call for your veterinarian's recommendations.

To give an injection, roll, don't shake, the bottle for 30 to 45 seconds and fill the syringe with insulin to the correct dose line indicated above. Replace the cap on the syringe. Don't hold your thumb on the plunger, or you might prematurely squirt the liquid. And remember to rotate injection sites to prevent the buildup of scar tissue. Tent the skin at the administration site and administer the injection. Store insulin in the refrigerator, do not freeze, keep out of sunlight and watch for any color change. Discard date: _____

Other recommendations for your pet's health: _____

Home glucose monitoring (if indicated): Pet owner receives kit and instructions

Treatment for any concurrent disease: _____

Additional instructions:

Always be sure someone is designated to give the insulin to prevent double-dosing. Watch for any changes in behavior (pet seems weak or sleepy, exhibits an unstable gait or experiences tremors). Also watch to see if your cat's water intake or urine output changes. If you notice any changes, call the veterinarian immediately. Keep Karo syrup on hand to administer if your cat's blood sugar is too low. With a veterinarian's recommendation, you can rub a teaspoon on the gums or give it with a syringe if the pet is awake. Remember that remission can come on quickly, and watching for these symptoms is the best way to know if this will occur, aside from home monitoring.

Follow-up call date: _____

Next appointment date: _____

Estimated food pick up date: _____

If you have questions during normal business hours, call us at: _____

For after-hours emergencies, call: _____

Glucose Curve Protocol

- 1) The night before the test feed your pet as normal and give the regular amount of insulin. Follow your evening's normal routine, but no food or snacks after 7:00 pm and allow free access to water if that is the norm.
- 2) The morning of the test DO NOT FEED OR GIVE INSULIN unless instructed by your veterinarian to do so.
- 3) Bring your pet to the clinic at 7:30 am
 - a. bring the insulin (on an ice pack)
 - b. any other of your pet's regular medications
 - c. a container with the normal amount of your pet's regular food

We may ask you to stay while we draw blood for a baseline blood glucose value and to make sure your pet will eat before receiving the morning insulin dose. Please allow for additional time as we have you feed your pet and observe you giving the insulin shot.

We will be drawing blood every 2 hours throughout the day to follow how well the insulin is working and how well your pet is responding to the current insulin dosing protocol.

At the end of the day when you pick up your pet your doctor or one of our RVT's will discuss the findings and any changes or recommendations.

Sign _____ Date _____