

Canine Diabetes

- Food (carbohydrates, fat, protein) is broken down to glucose, which is used for energy by the body
- Diabetes is a state of excessive glucose circulating in the blood stream, with too little entering the cells of the body
- It is caused by destruction of insulin producing cells in the pancreas
- It is commonly classified as type I: insulin-dependent
- Signs your dog may have Diabetes
 - Increases in thirst and urinating, and sometimes increased hunger
 - Weight loss
 - Lethargy and looking unhealthy
- What can happen if it is left untreated?
 - Ketoacidosis can develop, which is a life threatening condition
 - Liver disease can develop
 - Secondary bacterial infections can occur
 - Cataracts can form

Treatment

1. Insulin (NPH) injections are required every 12 hours
 - a. Store insulin in the refrigerator
 - b. It is good for 1 month after opening the vial
 - c. Use a new syringe for each injection and swab the rubber stopper with alcohol prior to use
 - d. **Gently** mix and warm the insulin prior to injection
 - e. Give injections on the side of the abdomen. Alternate sides. Minimal restraint is best
 - f. If you are unsure if a given injection was successful, wait until the next injection.
 - g. Draw up a larger amount of insulin into the syringe. Flick the syringe a few times with your finger to dislodge any air bubbles. Then push any air bubbles and excess insulin back into the vial. Stop when you reach the number of units that have been prescribed.
2. Diet: Best diet is high in fiber and low in fat. Feed twice daily with insulin injections.
3. Maintain a healthy body weight (can feel ribs, there is a tummy tuck, there is a visible waist)
4. Monitor blood glucose
 - a. Do all rechecks weekly until regulation is achieved. Recheck at about the time of injection and 6-8 hours later.

Low Blood Glucose (hypoglycemia)

- Can occur if you give too much insulin, there is low food intake, or there is another disease present
- Signs to look out for include: weakness, listlessness, dullness, lack of coordination, anxiety, dilated pupils, seizures and coma
- Call us if you see any of these signs
- For mild to moderate cases you can offer food or squirt honey or karo syrup into the mouth.
- For more serious cases you may have to rub the honey or karo syrup on their gums.
- You should see results in as quickly as 5 minutes

Why can't we get my dog regulated?

- There may be problems with insulin storage, mixing or contamination
- There may be a problem with injection technique, inappropriate injection sites or injection site reaction
- You may be feeding too much food
- There may be concurrent disease(s)
 - Such as infection or a hormonal imbalance
- It may be the wrong type of insulin