

Diabetes in the Dog

Your dog has been diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus, a condition that causes abnormally high levels of glucose (sugar) to build up in the blood and urine. This happens when the body is not producing or utilizing insulin properly. Insulin is a hormone normally produced by the pancreas. It allows the cells in the body to take glucose from the blood and use it for their metabolism. Without insulin, the cells "starve" and blood glucose levels remain elevated. This will cause your pet to urinate and drink more and can make them more susceptible to infections - especially bladder infections. We believe that obesity is a predisposing risk factor. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to a serious and even fatal condition call ketoacidosis.

Diabetes is a condition that is managed rather than cured. Most pets **will** require insulin injections twice daily for the rest of their lives. Weight loss and feeding high fiber foods will help in regulation of your dog's blood sugar.

It will be important for you to monitor our pet closely once insulin injections have begun. An overdose of insulin can cause a very serious drop in blood sugar (hypoglycemia) that can render your pet weak and disoriented and can even cause seizures and death. If your pet is showing any evidence of strange behavior while on insulin **DO NOT GIVE ANOTHER DOSE OF INSULIN!** If you forget when an insulin shot was last given or accidentally "miss" while injecting, don't attempt to redose or double up. It is much safer to skip a dose of insulin than to give too much. Karo syrup can be rubbed onto the gums of hypoglycemic animals to temporarily raise blood sugar levels until you can seek veterinary care.

It will periodically be necessary to bring your dog to the hospital for a glucose curve so that we can be sure that he/she is receiving the right dose of insulin. We will draw blood every 2 hours throughout the day to find out when the insulin activity is peaking and when blood glucose levels are at their lowest. Your veterinarian will discuss the results with you and recommend any changes in the dose of insulin.

Give your dog _____ units of _____ insulin

Feed your dog

Check your dog's urine glucose levels