



Sugar Hill Animal Hospital

5303 Hwy 20. Sugar Hill, GA 30518

770-271-7777

Discharge Instructions

Diagnosis: Diabetes Mellitus (DM). Diabetes results from inadequate production of insulin from the pancreas. Insulin is a hormone which is necessary for blood sugar to move from the blood stream into the cells where it can be utilized for energy. Without adequate insulin, signs of unregulated diabetes occur. These include increased thirst, increased urine production, increased appetite and weight loss. With time, if not treated appropriately, these animals become ill. They have altered metabolism and form toxins called ketone bodies. Signs of these toxins include vomiting, decreased appetite, diarrhea and depression.

Medications:

- _____: Please give ___ **Units every 12 hours** as a subcutaneous injection under the skin. This is a hormone that will be injected under the skin twice daily using a special insulin syringe. A full meal should be fed at the time of the injection.

Home Care:

- ***Be sure to only give insulin with meals.** It is important that your pet is eating and feeling well in order to receive his/her injection. The risk of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) exists if your pet is ill, not eating and continues to get insulin injections. Hypoglycemic crises can be severe or even fatal and can result in seizures or neurologic events.
- *Always **keep the insulin refrigerated.**
- *FOR VETSULIN- **PLEASE SHAKE THIS TYPE OF INSULIN VIGOROUSLY PRIOR TO USE!**
- *Please alternate injection sites to decrease the formation of scarring and to ensure proper absorption.
- *Be sure to use the correct syringes. The ___ **U-40** ___ type is used with ___ **VETSULIN** ___ type of insulin.
- *The insulin bottle should be replaced every **40 Days** to maintain proper efficacy, regardless of how much is left in the container.
- *Use only **one syringe per treatment** and discard it afterwards in a hard plastic or metal container. Bring these containers with you to your regular veterinarian when you have your pet rechecked.
- *There is no standard dose, each pet's requirement is different and will need to be adjusted over time. Any adjustment must be made carefully and slowly.
- *If there is ever a question, it is better to give too little insulin than too much.
- *If your pet does not eat or vomits his/her food, give half (1/2) the normal dose of insulin. If this occurs along with other signs of illness, contact your veterinarian.

Diet: Your pet has been started on a special diet recommended for diabetes. Please only feed twice a day, prior to giving his/her insulin shot. It is important to keep your pet's diet consistent and discuss any changes to his/her diet with your regular veterinarian. Any treats given through the day can alter glucose control and is therefore discouraged.

Recommended Feeding amount: TBD

Monitoring: Please monitor your pet closely for signs of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemia (high blood sugar). Signs of **hypoglycemia** include lethargy, decreased appetite, weakness, wobbly or uncoordinated walking, sleepiness, tremoring, seizures and becoming non-responsive. If you see these signs, stop giving insulin, administer karo syrup (this can be purchased at your local grocery store in the syrup aisle) onto the gums and seek veterinary care immediately. Signs of **hyperglycemia** include increased urination and thirst, increased appetite with weight loss and lethargy. If you observe these signs, please seek veterinary care as insulin dosage may need to be adjusted. If your pet is not receiving enough insulin

or if the insulin is not being administered appropriately ketone bodies may develop. Ketones are the byproduct of abnormal metabolism and act like toxins. Signs of these include vomiting, extreme lethargy, decreased appetite and diarrhea. If you should see any of these signs, please seek immediate veterinary care. **NOTE:** If there is ever a question if your pet received his/her injection or not, it is better to skip the dose and just give the normal dose at the next schedule time. This will prevent double dosing if multiple family members are giving the medication. It is very important to monitor diabetics as described in order to observe this if it happens. You may also find the following websites helpful:

Client Resource

www.petdiabetes.com

AAHA/AAFP Feline Life Stage Guidelines

www.aahanet.org and www.catvets.com

Canine Diabetes site for Owners

www.caninediabetes.org

Washington State University (client information)

<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientEd/diabetes.aspx>

Winn Feline Foundation Information on Cats

http://www.winnfelinehealth.org/Health/Diabetes.html?gclid=CK3R9_T8p4CFQklswodAhcdLA

Insulin Dose: Never alter the insulin dose unless recommended by your doctor. It is through careful monitoring that insulin dose should be adjusted. This type of monitoring cannot be done at home.

Follow up

Diabetics are prone to secondary infections particularly of the urinary tract. Urine should be tested periodically (every 6 months) for signs of a urinary tract infection. This requires your veterinarian to collect a sterile urine sample via cystocentesis and submit it to the laboratory for analysis.

Your pet will require close monitoring of his/her blood glucose as his insulin level is adjusted over the next few weeks.

Notify your veterinarian if:

- *Vomiting, diarrhea or other unexpected illness
- *Notify your veterinary clinic at least one week before your supplies of insulin and/or syringes run out

Bring your pet in to your veterinarian for a re-check exam if:

- *Seems to feel ill (vomiting, diarrhea, etc.)
- *Has a ravenous appetite or has a loss of appetite
- *Seems to be drinking or urinating excessively

Jonathan Bentley, DVM