



# At Home Diabetic Care

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## Handling Insulin:

- Insulin should be stored in a refrigerator
- Insulin should NOT be frozen at any point
- Do NOT use insulin past the listed expiration date
- Always double check that the type of syringes you are given match the type of insulin being administered.
  - Example: Humulin N is 100units per cc of insulin, so the syringes need to be U-100 syringes, not U-40 syringes
- When mixing insulin before an injection, gently roll the insulin vial in your hands until the insulin has the same consistency. Never shake insulin – this will degrade the medication and can make your pet sick

## Giving Injections:

- **Give insulin after feeding your pet their normal meal**
- **If your pet DOES NOT eat, do not give insulin and call your veterinarian for further instruction**
- To give your pet an insulin injection, follow the mixing instructions listed above
- Be sure you have drawn up the correct insulin dose
  - To draw up insulin:
    1. Mix insulin according
    2. Hold insulin vial upside down, insert insulin syringe into bottle
    3. Withdraw the correct amount of units for your pet – Your doctor should have given you this information. Never change your pet's insulin dose without consulting your Veterinarian
- Insulin should be administered subcutaneously, or under the skin. To administer insulin you may require a second set of hands to help restrain your pet. When giving insulin gently pinch a small amount of skin and insert the syringe into the gap/ tent you created and inject the insulin. Your pet may feel a slight pinch from the syringe, but, regardless, they require this medication to stay healthy.

## Injection sites:

- Scruff of the neck and the shoulder region of your pet

## Signs to watch out for:

*\*Symptoms are for high and low blood glucose*

- Nausea (excessive drooling or licking lips)
- Appetite loss
- Lethargy
- Listlessness
- Excessive thirst
- Increased urination
- Weakness
- Seizures

**\*If you suspect your pet of having a low blood glucose, please feed your pet immediately. AFTER TREATING, you should call your veterinarian.**

## Foods to feed your pet during a low blood glucose event include:

- Karo syrup
- Maple syrup

    Rub syrup on the gums of your pet to increase blood glucose,  
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO POUR LIQUID DOWN YOUR PETS MOUTH. THIS MAY CAUSE MORE HARM.