



Caring for your diabetic dog

By Debby Rayner RVN

Remember to inject the insulin at the same time each day.

Try to slightly vary the injection site to avoid sensitivity.

You can use a syringe up to three times, but keep any in use syringes in the fridge with the insulin.

Keep to the diet prescribed as this will give optimum control of the condition; if you experience problems changing your dogs diet please contact the surgery so we can advise.

Always feed before injecting insulin to avoid the possibility of a hypo later in the day.

Never feed treats or tit bits and ensure all family members are aware as these can be harmful to a diabetic animal.

If at any time your dog seems vacant or wobbly please call the surgery as this could be a hypo and should be treated as an emergency.

During the stabilisation process and for the initial period, please observe your dog as much as possible so you can be immediately aware of any deteriorations of the condition.

Please attach a disc to your dogs collar to advise that the dog has diabetes. This may avoid strangers offering food, and would inform a surgery of your dogs medical condition if he was found by a stranger, lost or unwell.

Should your dog fail to eat, vomit or appear unwell, contact the surgery at the first opportunity, then only give half the normal dose of insulin.

Routine blood tests are taken about every three months to check the levels of fructosamine, which indicates how stable the patient has been. You can also test urine for ketones and glucose at home in certain cases.

If your dog starts to become sensitive to the injection and reacts strongly, this can be due to poor injection technique but is often a sign if an infected site so you will need to arrange an appointment with a vet as soon as you can. Diabetics are more prone to infections generally so you may find you are visiting the surgery more often than usual!

Please remember that if you are at all worried about anything, however small please don't hesitate to contact the surgery and speak to your diabetic nurse.