

Diabetes Mellitus



1830 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647 — (903) 845-2293 — hpah.pet@gmail.com

Your pet has been diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus. This disease occurs when the pancreas is unable to secrete insulin. Insulin is necessary for the proper breakdown of glucose or blood sugar into energy.

The clinical signs seen include:

- increased water consumption
- increased frequency of urination
- increased appetite
- weight loss
- vomiting
- lethargy

Predisposing factors for this disease include:

- obesity
- poor diet
- genetic predisposition
- hormonal abnormalities
- drugs (chronic steroid use)
- stress

Your pet will be placed on insulin injections to regulate this disease.

Your pet will receive insulin twice daily underneath the skin. After initial diagnosis, it is important to return for a check-up in 7 days to allow us to monitor your pet's response to insulin. If the dose is too high, life-threatening low blood sugar can result.

Diet is also an important factor in diabetic regulation. Your pet should be fed a diabetic prescription diet (Hill's w/d or m/d) or over-the-counter low calorie formulation (weight management, senior, or healthy weight) at least twice daily. It is important to feed your pet prior to insulin administration or your pet may become hypoglycemic (blood sugar too low). If your pet is a "nibbler", dry food can be left down, but only in measured amounts.

Complications of diabetes can include a syndrome called ketoacidosis. Clinical signs include:

- anorexia
- collapse
- increased rate and/or difficulty breathing
- dehydration
- vomiting
- depression
- acidic odor to breath

If any of these signs occur, please contact your veterinarian immediately! Diabetic ketoacidosis, if left untreated, can be life threatening.

Anorexia (decrease or loss of appetite) or insulin overdose may cause hypoglycemia (low blood glucose). If you see increased lethargy, weakness, collapse, or seizure several hours after the insulin injection, you should suspect this. Administer Karo syrup or honey 1-2 TBSP by mouth if your pet is able to swallow. If not, take your pet immediately to your veterinarian. If after hours, take them to the East Texas Pet Emergency Clinic.

Directions for Insulin:

- Keep insulin in the fridge at all times.
- SHAKE INSULIN VIGOROUSLY before administering.
- Give insulin in the subcutaneous space under the skin. Alternate locations where you give the injection.
- Sometimes it is easier to give insulin while your pet is eating for distraction.
- If your pet does not eat (or eat much) at the designated meal time, then give 1/2 of the dose of insulin.
- Try to give the insulin dose as close to every 12 hours apart as possible.
- Monitor your pet for excessive drinking or urinating and if these signs re-occur, please return your pet for glucose monitoring at your veterinarian.

For after hours emergencies, contact the East Texas Pet Emergency Clinic at (903) 759-8545. They are located at 812 Gilmer Rd., Longview, TX 75604.