



## **Information Sheet**

### **DIABETES**

- Your dog has been diagnosed and is being treated for diabetes. This is a disease of the pancreas part of which produces Insulin.
- Your dog does NOT produce enough Insulin. Insulin is a hormone that helps glucose (sugar) to get from the blood into the cells.
- Giving Insulin by injection allows sugar to get into the cells and treats the condition -treatment is for the rest of the dog's life.
- High blood sugar 'overflows' through the kidney into the urine and this 'pulls' water with it making the dog drink and urinate more.

### **Aims of treatment**

- To decrease and hopefully eliminate excess urination and drinking
- To improve exercise tolerance and energy levels
- To maintain or restore normal body weight
- To prevent development of complications

### **Normal regime for diabetics Twice daily injections**

- Your pet should receive, 2 meals a day. These should be evenly divided, between a morning and evening meal. Plenty of water should always be available and ideally the amount of exercise should be kept constant day to day.
- The dose of Insulin which we have told you to give your pet should be given just after each meal of the day (make sure the meal has been eaten before you inject the Insulin)
- Keep your Insulin in the ordinary part, not freezer, of your fridge on its side. Mix before use by rolling between palms NOT shaking. Make sure your Insulin is still in date.
- The Insulin should be drawn up into the syringe ensuring you have the correct amount and injected under the skin - the skin of the scruff or along the back are the best sites to use. Vary the site slightly each day if possible.
- It is most important to keep your dog strictly to the diet prescribed (no extra biscuits, chews etc.) with an injection of Insulin at the same time each day - better stabilised dogs i.e. those whose sugar is regularly at the correct low level - do better on treatment.
- Keep a record of Insulin given.

So a typical daily routine might be: -

If your animal is well:-

8.30 AM give morning meal and once animal eaten all or most of food inject dose of

Insulin

8.30 PM give evening meal and once animal eaten all or most of food inject dose of

Insulin

After an initial period of stabilisation we will test your animal's blood sugar at the surgery - usually about 8 hours after the morning dose of insulin - we will select a dose of Insulin you can leave your animal on between blood tests. These blood tests are performed regularly and eventually at 3 month intervals.

Adjusting Insulin dose with blood tests "fine tunes" the dose your dog receives to get the best stabilisation we can.

If your animal is unwell do not give Insulin and contact us.

## **EMERGENCIES**

- If TOO MUCH Insulin is given a diabetic can become hypoglycaemic (blood sugar drops TOO LOW) signs include nervousness, muscle twitching and lethargy; if very severe even convulsions or coma.
- This can be treated by FEEDING the dog, especially sugar/honey, glucose in water spooned into dog's mouth if your dog won't eat.
- Because of this try to avoid Insulin overdose NEVER dose twice if uncertain if dose already given, some leaked from syringe etc.
- If your dog is ill (vomiting, diarrhoea etc.) or for any other reason not eating DO NOT give the Insulin for that day.