

## Managing Pet Diabetics



### What is Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus is a disease in which your pet's pancreas can no longer produce enough of the hormone insulin. Their blood sugar becomes too high which builds up in the blood and can no longer be absorbed into the body's cells.

### What happens with a lack of insulin?

In diabetic pets the pancreas can no longer produce enough insulin. Without insulin, glucose (sugar) is no longer able to leave the bloodstream to be used as energy by the body's cells, hence the glucose in the blood will rise to an abnormally high level. The level will eventually become so high that glucose overflows into the urine and your dog's urine will contain glucose.

The body's cells cannot utilize the glucose they depend upon for energy. In order to compensate for this, other 'abnormal' energy producing processes start up which do not depend on glucose (such as fat break-down). Unfortunately, these processes eventually create toxic by-products that can make your pet very sick.

### How do we determine the insulin dose for your pet?

When your pet is newly diagnosed with diabetes your veterinarian will want to do a blood glucose curve, to determine the amount of insulin needed. A glucose curve lets your veterinarian see a profile of how the insulin is working in your pet's body, and if the dose needs to be adjusted.

### What does insulin do?

Every time your pet eats a meal, glucose (sugar) is absorbed from the intestines and enters the bloodstream. Glucose is the essential fuel of the body's cells and is needed for these cells to work and so for the body to function. At the same time insulin is released by your pet's pancreas. Insulin allows the glucose to leave the bloodstream and enter cells (for example liver, kidney, brain and muscle cells) where it can be used for energy and growth. Think of insulin as a key that unlocks a door to let glucose into the cells. Insulin lowers blood glucose and allows it to enter cells where it is used to produce energy.

### What signs should I look for?

Signs to look for are:

- Increased thirst
- Frequent urination
- Changes in appetite
- Weight loss
- Increased fatigue
- Deteriorating coat condition
- Lethargy or lack of energy
- Irritability
- Blurred Vision



### Can it be treated?

With dogs, diabetes does not normally just go away, or get better by itself. This is a condition that will need lifelong care. Administration of insulin and regulation of diet and exercise are the main components to keeping a diabetic pet healthy. If managed correctly, your pet will live a long and happy life. If left untreated it will lead to medical complications that could be fatal to your pet.





# VIRGO

24 Aug - 23 Sept

**Dogs:** *Virgo dog's are intelligent and often very easy to train, needing little or no discipline. They are also well balanced and dependable. They tend to like their routines, so don't be surprised if they want their food and walks around the same time each day. In general, Virgo dogs are very healthy and they really enjoy being groomed as they like to look their best – it's not often they will get dirty as they like to be clean. Be sure to give them lots of love and petting each day - since they can be quiet in nature. It can sometimes be easy to forget they are around as they will not demand attention but they really do love being fussed over.*

**Cats:** *A Virgo cat is innocent and naïve, trusting and obedient, however, don't be misled into thinking they are easily taken advantage - before you realize it they can have you trained into their way. They also love to wash for hours to look their best! They love to sleep in clean bedding and have clean food dishes. Like their canine counterparts, they enjoy a routine so try to keep feeding times regular and their food dishes in the same place as they are not very keen on change. Virgo cats are smart and learn what you desire with very little effort. Even though they appear calm and cool, they still crave your love and assurance to be happy and contented.*

# NOW YOU CAN "TREAT" YOUR ALLERGIC PET

Brand new on the market - Hills Hypoallergenic Treats for both cats & dogs

**Why not treat your pets to Hills hypoallergenic treats:**

- 🐾 A tasty, healthy & rewarding way to treat both cats & dogs with food allergies or inflammatory skin conditions
- 🐾 Ideal for cats & dogs on elimination feeding trials
- 🐾 Nourishes the skin and coat with omega fatty acids
- 🐾 Great taste!



## THE IMPORTANCE OF BLOOD WORK & FLUIDS

We are often asked about the purpose of performing bloodwork and fluids when pets come in for surgery so we hope the following information will help explain both the reasons and benefits.

A simple blood test, carried out in our in-house lab, is performed prior to administering anaesthetic to highlight any medical problems that can not be detected by a routine examination. It is important to confirm that your pet's kidneys and liver will be able to breakdown the anaesthetic after the surgery as failure to do so will be fatal to your pet. In addition, platelets are checked to ensure that their blood is able to clot so that bleeding complications do not occur during surgery. Furthermore, both white and red blood cells are examined to identify any infections and anaemia. If any medical problems are highlighted as a result of the bloodwork then we may have to postpone surgery in order to treat your pet before they can undergo anaesthesia.

Similarly, fluids are administered during surgery to help combat dehydration, this helps your pet recover faster and smoother after surgery. If you have any questions concerning your pet's surgery our veterinary healthcare team are always on hand to help.

**New**



If your pet needs an ID tag, or you just want to treat them to a new one, then check out our new line of ID tags which can be customized and made in-clinic within minutes & while you wait!

Chose from a variety of sizes and shapes such as hearts, bones, hydrants, circles and octagons.

Each tag also comes in a variety of colours: gold, blue, black, purple, red, copper, pewter, bronze & hot pink!



Tudor Glen Veterinary Clinic, 1005 Tudor Glen Place, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 3V4

Tel: (780) 458-6051 / Fax: (780) 458-0869