

Shark River Veterinary Hospital

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Specific Diabetes Instructions

- 1) At home monitoring of a diabetic dog is much more important than any test we can do in the clinic. In general, dogs with well managed diabetes should drink normal quantities of water. Excessive water consumption usually implies poor regulation of diabetes or concurrent illness (Cushing's disease for example). Please monitor his/her water consumption so that it can be discussed during follow-up visits.
- 2) Diabetic dogs should not lose weight. Your pet's weight should be accurately recorded on veterinary visits and poor weight gain or loss implies poor regulation of diabetes or concurrent illness.
- 3) Diabetic animals should always have a small amount of glucose in their urine, and they should never have ketones. Repeat negative urine glucose tests usually imply that the dose of insulin being administered is too high. You should purchase urine test strips to measure ketones and glucose in his/her urine. This should be done 1-2 times a week. These results should be recorded so that they can be reviewed. If you get repeat negative readings, you should not administer his/her insulin and contact us. Likewise, if you obtain a positive reading for ketones, you need to contact us.
- 4) Dogs with diabetes tend to be easier to regulate when fed a high fiber diet. I've had the best experience with a prescription Hills product called W/D. If this results in weight loss, then cooked lean chicken or ground beef can be added for calories.
- 5) Insulin should be administered at approximately 12 hour intervals although exact timing is not essential. If his/her appetite is not good in a given 24 hour time period, his/her insulin dose should be cut in half and a veterinarian should be consulted. Always give the insulin after eating a meal to ensure that he/she eats before getting the injection.
- 6) Alterations in insulin dose should not be made without the advice of a veterinarian. In general, it takes 10-14 days to adjust to a new dose of insulin, and dosage adjustments should not be made any more frequently than this. Dosage adjustments will be made based on the above monitoring parameters and blood tests including blood fructosamine and blood glucose readings. Blood glucose curves are very difficult to interpret in dogs and are generally not needed.