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## Notes

**Insulin** Normally produced by the pancreas, insulin *reduces* blood glucose. Diabetics produce insufficient insulin, needing injections to keep blood glucose down to normal limits.

**Failure to give enough** insulin results in excessive blood glucose, to such a level as copious glucose is passed in the urine. This increases urine output stimulating a thirst. Persistent high levels of blood glucose encourage incomplete sugar metabolism with the production of poisonous ketones. The animal may become comatose and die.

**Giving too much** insulin drops blood glucose below the levels needed by cells, particularly nerve cells. The animal may adopt a "vacant" expression, twitch and even convulse. Glucose must always be at hand to be administered by mouth, in solution, using a syringe or pipette, in such an emergency.

"Lente" insulin has a long duration of action usually being given only once daily after breakfast is eaten. Its peak effect is about eight hours when a second meal should be given to maintain blood glucose.

**Monitoring** the insulin requirement is achieved by measuring urine glucose and ketones with a Keto-Diastix. Aim for 1/4% urine glucose and no ketones at the time of injection. Blood glucose measurement at the surgery may be used as a back-up.

**Feeding** High fibre diets (eg Hills W/D) provide a slower release of carbohydrate and smaller variations in blood sugars. Usually half is fed immediately prior to injection, half eight hours later. Your pet's weight must be kept constant.

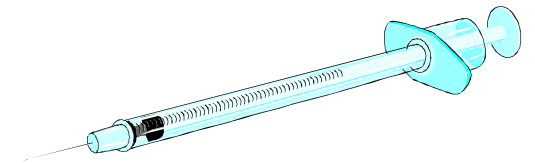
### Common Problems

1. Off Food or vomiting - give at most half the insulin and get checked same day at the clinic
2. Eaten extra - normal insulin

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## Diabetic Control



**Hamilton Pet Clinic**  
St. John's Wood NW8 0171 7223381

**Primrose Hill Clinic**  
Gloucester Avenue NW1 0171 5868806

**Park Veterinary Clinic**  
Regents Park Road N3 0181 3431433

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