

DIABETES: REMISSION

CATS...EARLY
•
DIAGNOSIS



QUESTIONS?

Please contact your veterinarian via email or phone.

REMISSION

What is remission?

Cats diagnosed early in the disease process can be managed aggressively to put the disease into a dormant state called remission. This means that they may not have to take insulin long term. A common cause of diabetes in cats is inflammation of the pancreas (the organ that produces insulin). Pancreatic inflammation (pancreatitis) is very common in cats and often goes undiagnosed because cats show very few symptoms throughout the course of the disease. Symptoms may include, vomiting, diarrhea, low energy level, poor hair coat, painful abdomen, picky eater, anorexia.

Dr. Greg Lowe
glowe@rowananimalclinic.com

Dr. Marilyn Duda
mduda@rowananimalclinic.com

Dr. Rhod Lowe
rlowe@rowananimalclinic.com

Dr. Josh Sullivan
jsullivan@rowananimalclinic.com

What comes next?

Your veterinarian will screen for underlying disease using blood tests. A blood chemistry panel including a special test called a spec Fpl helps look for underlying diseases like pancreatitis. Once a diagnosis has been made special food may be recommended in addition to insulin. The insulin is glargine or Lantus insulin. This insulin is used for humans but works great for early diabetic cats. Your veterinarian will write a prescription for this insulin because it will have to be purchased at a human pharmacy. Be sure to purchase U-100 insulin syringes to use with your insulin pen. Be aware; The pharmacy may not understand this and may even tell you that you don't need syringes if you are buying an insulin pen. Don't worry! They are not likely to be familiar with how veterinarians use the insulin pens to treat pets. We will show you what to do. In addition to the purchase of the insulin you will also need to purchase an at home blood glucose monitor. This monitor must be made specifically for pets. Google the words "Alpha-Trak" to find a kit for purchase online.

Once you have your Lantus insulin pen, U-100 syringes, and an at home blood glucose monitor contact our office to schedule a drop off appointment. We will keep your pet for the day to get them started on their new insulin. Please drop your pet off as early as possible. Be sure to bring the insulin pen, syringes, glucometer, and your pets food with you (keep the insulin cool as instructed on the pharmacy paperwork). We will find the best dose of insulin for your pet. This may take more than one day so be prepared for an extended stay.

What happens at pickup after the drop off appointment?

A veterinarian will review how to use your newly purchased pen, glucometer, and syringes. A veterinarian will also review how to use the glucometer, how to draw up insulin from the insulin pen, and how and where to inject insulin.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Please contact our reception team today!

CALL

704-636-3408

EMAIL

rowananimalreception@gmail.com

CLICK

www.rowananimalclinic.com

What comes later?

Once the proper dose of insulin has been established it will be your job to administer insulin at home as instructed. This means giving shots, which means needles so be prepared for this. Once insulin dosing has started

Testing will be performed:

1. At home as instructed by your veterinarian
2. Anytime your pet shows signs of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)

What should you plan for?

Management of this disease usually includes twice daily medication and close monitoring. Some patients require special diets to aid in weight loss. Exercise is key to helping your pet lose weight. Budget for glargine/lantus insulin, blood testing, insulin syringes and prescription diets.

What should you watch out for?

The biggest concern with diabetic pets is low blood sugar. If your pet is not responding well, seems groggy, or is pale you should assume your pet's blood sugar is low. Rub corn syrup or honey on the gums and under the tongue immediately. Seek veterinary help!!!!

If you are taking regular blood sugar readings as instructed you may find that your pet's blood sugar is extremely low even though your pet looks and acts normal. Stay calm. Don't panic this can be normal. Continue to do blood tests every 30-60 minutes until the low blood glucose number begins to trend upwards.

WARNING

WHEN IN DOUBT **SKIP THE INJECTION**. IF YOUR PET DIDN'T EAT, **SKIP THE INJECTION**. DO NOT DOUBLE UP OR GIVE THE INJECTION LATER TO MAKE UP FOR A MISSED DOSE. PETS THAT ACHIEVE REMISSION MAY RELAPSE SO CONTINUE TO MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF DIABETES AND PLAN FOR ANNUAL PREVENTIVE CARE EXAMINATION AND BLOOD TESTINGS TO SCREEN FOR PROBLEMS.