

Diabetes: Low Blood Glucose (Hypoglycaemia)

levels?

assessment

Summary



The brain cannot use any other source of energy other than glucose!

It does not store or produce glucose itself so a steady source is essential for normal function.

Hypoglycaemia

blood glucose level less than 3.33 mmol/L (less than 60 mg/dL)

Changes in behaviour that may indicate low blood glucose

- · Unwilling to eat
- · Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Dull
- · Lethargic | Tired
- · Restless | Pacing
- Panting

- Disorientation
- · Acting blind
- · Drunken walk
- Weak
- · Collapsed
- · Tremors | Twitching
- Seizures

Possible causes of low blood glucose

Insulin overdose

Related to diabetes

- · Giving insulin at irregular intervals
- · Giving insulin injections when a pet is not eating well
- · Giving too high an insulin dose
- · Not mixing the insulin correctly
- · Using incorrect insulin syringes (U-40 versus U-100)
- · Undetected diabetic remission (common in cats)
- · Giving insulin when a pet has been exercising excessively
- · Increased sensitivity to insulin in non-spayed (intact) females at the end of diestrus

Other Causes

- · Xylitol (sweetener) toxicity
- · Cancers | Insulinomas

Other causes

- · Sepsis | Infections
- Preanancy
- · Extreme exercise
- Seizures

- Decrease glucose

- Toy breeds and young of reserves
- Liver problems such as a liver shunt
- · Hormone problems (Addisons)
- Maldigestion
- Vomiting
- · Intestinal parasites

Remember

 Check what brand/strength of insulin you are giving
Different brands of insulin have different strengths e.g. 40 Units per ml vs. 100 Units per ml

2. Ensure you use the correct insulin syringe Different sized syringes have different graduation markings e.g. The markings on a 1-mL insulin syringe = 2 units vs markings on 0.5-mL insulin syringe = 1 unit

Log your pet's glucose with Pets on tapp™ and share with your veterinarian











-Increased use of glucose

production or absorption

- puppies/kittens with lack
- Malnutrition
- Diarrhoea

Warning 🗥 Half the usual dose of insulin DO NOT GIVE INSULIN if

What to do if you suspect low blood glucose

Feed a tasty meal. Hand-feeding might be necessary to

onto your pet's gums (Glucose powder can also be used)

check your pet's blood glucose level as needed)

Call your veterinarian for further advice

before the insulin injection

Contact your veterinarian for advice

If your pet is weak and unable to swallow:

If your pet refuses to eat, rub 1 – 2 teaspoons of honey or syrup

Monitor for changes in behaviour (If a blood glucose meter is available

Rub 1–2 teaspoons of honey or syrup onto your pet's gums

Marning! DO NOT force feed a pet that cannot

What to do if your diabetic pet does not eat

Tempt your pet to eat via hand- or spoon-feeding, if

to be completely swallowed before the next is given

If you have a handheld glucose meter do a spot blood

unsuccessful syringe feeding can be attempted BUT must

be done carefully. Offer small amounts and allow mouthfuls

swallow as this can lead to aspiration pneumonia!

🎇 Take your pet to the closest veterinary clinic for further

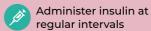
If your pet is conscious and able to swallow:

encourage your pet to eat

your pet is acting abnormally or a blood glucose is reading low.

Contact your veterinarian for further advice.

How to avoid low blood glucose levels in diabetic patients



glucose check

should be administered if your

pet has eaten less than the

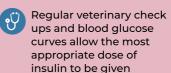
normal amount.

Monitor your pet closely for

changes in behaviour.



Feed consistent meals at fixed times each day





Be aware of the behaviour changes seen in pets with low blood glucose



Keep glucose powder/ honey at home in case of emergencies



Know where your closest 24 hr clinic is incase of emergency