



BUCKLEY HOUSE VETS

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Diabetes Treatment at Buckley House Vets

Diabetes in dogs is a complex disease caused by either a lack of the hormone insulin or an inadequate response to insulin. If managed correctly, diabetic patients can lead normal, happy lives. After an animal eats, its digestive system breaks food into various components, including glucose, which is carried into the body's cells for use by insulin (a hormone produced by the pancreas).

When insulin is not produced naturally or the body can not utilise it correctly blood glucose levels remain high, a condition known as hyperglycaemia. Most patients require injectable insulin twice daily after eating to allow this glucose to be absorbed and used by cells, in turn, lowering the blood glucose level to a more acceptable range. Regular testing will be required to ensure the insulin dose is sufficient and allow alterations to be made, especially when your pet is initially diagnosed.

Its very important to give your pet's insulin at the same time every day and feed him/her regular meals in conjunction with his/her medication. This allows peak insulin levels to co-inside with the peak blood nutrition and prevent blood sugar levels dropping too low. Our vets will work closely with you to formulate the correct feeding/insulin regime to suit your daily schedule. Consistent weight and exercise levels are also important to again keep blood glucose levels as steady as possible.

There are many symptoms of diabetes including; excessive thirst, weight loss, increased urination, sweet smelling breath, urinary tract infections and cataract formation to name a few. We can conduct a number of tests involving your pet's urine and blood to make a definitive diagnosis if diabetes is suspected.

Recent studies have highlighted that obesity can be a contributing factor to the onset of diabetes. Whilst the exact cause is not known, a healthy weight, diet, exercise plan and regular check ups can hopefully keep the disease at bay.

If left untreated, diabetes can lead to a whole host of secondary problems including cataract formation and urinary tract infections. Ultimately, if left untreated or not monitored correctly, diabetes can lead to coma and/or death.