

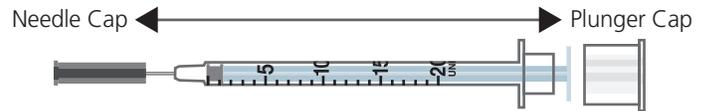
Insulin Injection Guide for Pets



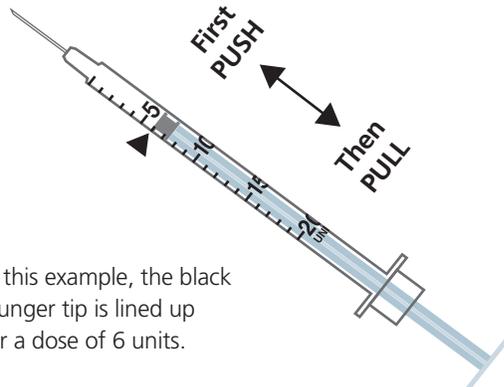
Prepare the Insulin: Inspect the insulin for discoloration or crystallization. Do not use insulin if it is discolored or any crystals, clumps or white particles remain after mixing. If the insulin is in the form of a suspension (e.g. ProZinc) gently roll and turn the bottle until thoroughly mixed. For Vetsulin/Caninsulin shake more forcefully to mix until a homogenous milky suspension is obtained and allow any foam to disperse. If your veterinarian has recommended Glargine, or another insulin solution, a mixing step is not necessary.

Prepare the Syringe: Ensure that the syringe being used matches the concentration of insulin. For example U-40 syringes should be used for U-40 insulin, U-100 for U-100 insulin. Please note: A red needle cap signifies a U-40 syringe and an orange needle cap signifies a U-100 syringe.

1. Remove the white protective cap from the plunger end of the syringe. Remove the colored needle cap from the needle end of the syringe being careful to pull straight off to avoid bending the needle.

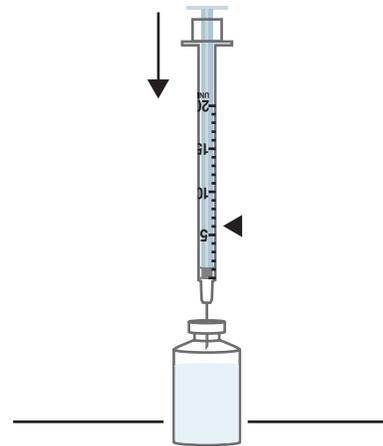


2. PUSH the plunger all the way to the top of the syringe, then PULL back to draw a volume of air into the syringe that matches the dose of insulin to be delivered. The black plunger tip should align with the black line on the syringe barrel indicating the required dose.

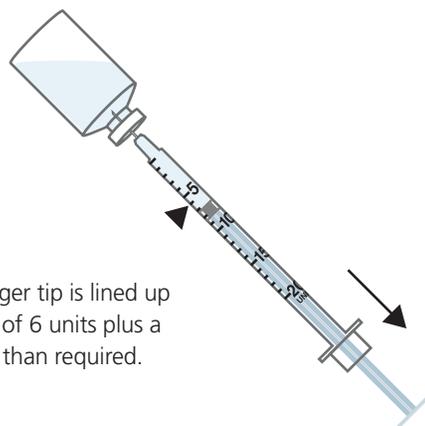


In this example, the black plunger tip is lined up for a dose of 6 units.

3. Gently insert the needle into the insulin bottle through the rubber cap and push down on the plunger to inject the air into the vial.

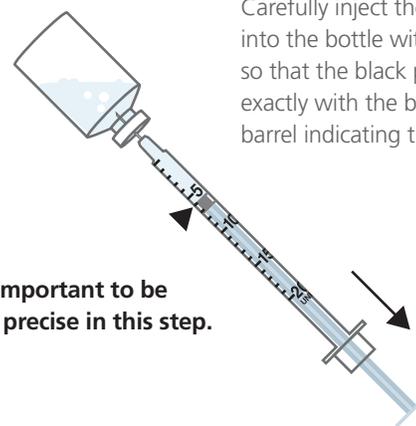


4. Now turn the insulin bottle upside down and draw insulin into the syringe by drawing the plunger back and removing a little more than the required volume of insulin.



Black plunger tip is lined up for a dose of 6 units plus a little more than required.

5. Keeping the insulin syringe in the bottle and still holding it upside down, gently tap the syringe so that any air bubbles move to the top of the inverted syringe.



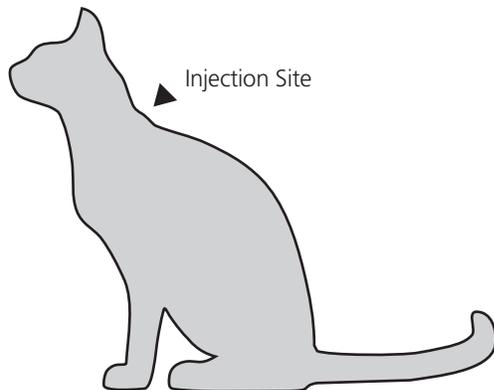
Carefully inject these bubbles back into the bottle with any excess insulin so that the black plunger tip aligns exactly with the black line on the barrel indicating the correct dose.

It is important to be very precise in this step.

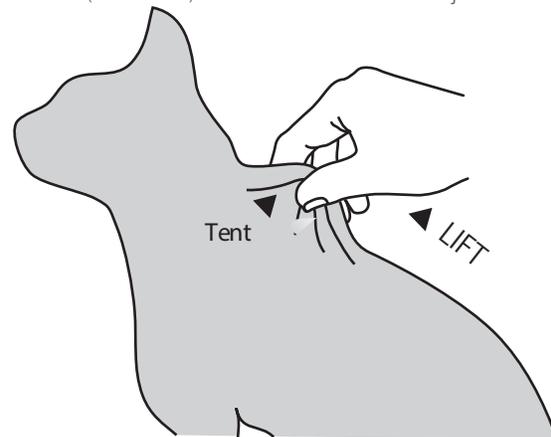
6. Lastly, remove the needle from the bottle and check again that the dose is correct and there are no air bubbles trapped in the syringe. Be careful not to allow the sterile needle to touch anything. Now you are ready to give the injection.

Administer the Insulin: In most cases it is usual to feed your pet prior to giving insulin. If your pet does not want to eat, follow directions from your veterinarian. Talk to your pet and make sure that they are relaxed and will stay still for the injection. Giving the injection while the pet is eating may be helpful in this regard. If necessary, ask someone to hold the pet. (You may want to have someone else hold the pet for the first few injections, keeping their hands and face clear from the animal's mouth.)

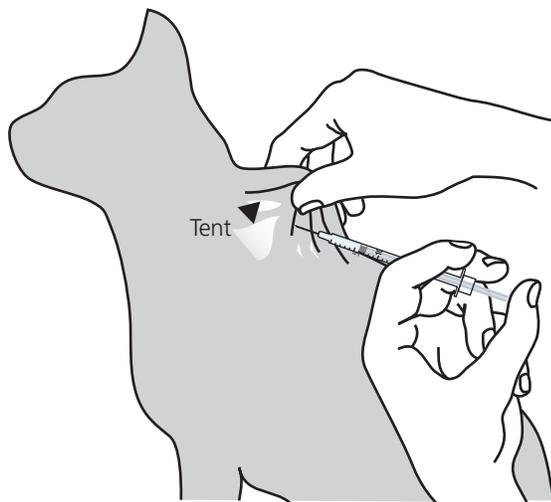
1. Identify an injection location in the loose skin over the animal's shoulders. Follow your veterinarian's instructions as to the best location, but be sure to vary the location, so that the injection is administered into a slightly different location each time.



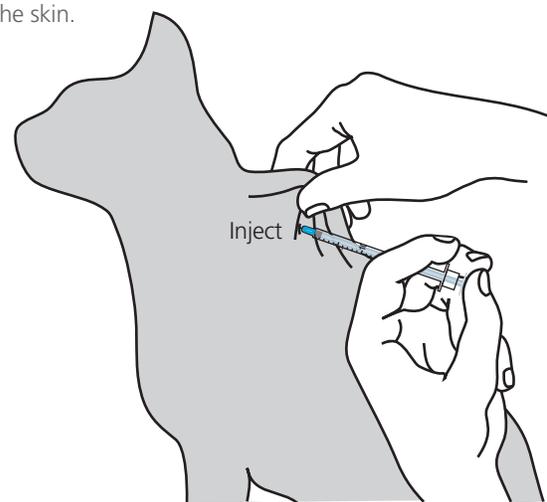
2. Holding the syringe in one hand, use the other hand to gently pull up from above the back of the shoulders and below the neck—the scruff (extra skin)—to form a tent for the injection site.



3. Gently slide the needle into the base of the tent ensuring that it does not pass through the skin to the other side.



4. Pull back gently on the syringe plunger to ensure that no blood enters the syringe and then *slowly* inject the complete dose under the skin.



5. Immediately remove the syringe. Check that no insulin escaped onto the surface of the skin or into the fur. If you suspect that leakage has happened, do not repeat the dose of insulin but do record it in your notebook. It is a good idea to keep a notebook and record the time of every injection, the dose given, and any complications.

Proper Disposal: Place the syringe into a safety container without recapping the needle. NEVER dispose of used insulin syringes directly into the trash. Follow your state and local regulations when disposing of used needles.

This information was provided by Catharine R. Scott-Moncrie MA Vet MB MS, Diplomate ACVIM (SA Internal medicine) ECVIM (companion animal). It is provided as a guide but not intended to replace your veterinarian's advice. This injection guide is available online at www.VetOne.net

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