



How to give your pet a subcutaneous injection at home

Sometimes a pet needs medication that's best given in an injection form, like insulin. Use this handout (in addition to a demonstration from your veterinary technician) to take the worry out of trying this process yourself.

The prospect of giving a pet an injection at home can be a daunting one. Use this step-by-step handout to refresh your memory after you've left the veterinary hospital.

1. Prepare your injection. Remove the syringe from the protective packaging, remove the cap from the needle and draw up the prescribed amount of medication from the vial plus a little extra. Holding the syringe vertically with the needle pointing up, slowly push the plunger to the correct dose, expelling any air bubbles.

2. Prepare your pet. If your pet isn't that mobile, go to them. If your pet is mobile, gently hold them still in the area where you want to give them the injection. One thing you can try: Spread peanut butter on the front of your fridge and let the pet lick it as a distraction. They'll stick to that spot! It'll be relatively easy to clean up afterward, and the pet won't be tempted to follow the treat, unlike if they had a peanut butter filled toy that can roll.

3. Tent the skin. Gently gather the skin above your pet's shoulders and form a

"tent," or space in the skin that you can inject the medication without hitting something you shouldn't.

4. Give the injection. Quickly, but gently, push the needle into the tented skin, then pull back on the syringe plunger. This is to ensure you do not get blood or a lot of air bubbles. (If you do get a lot of air bubbles, you may have gone through the "tent;" withdraw the syringe and try again). If there is no blood, depress the plunger until the full dose of medication has been injected. Withdraw the needle when finished, and you're done!