

## LANTUS INSULIN

### *Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?*

Insulin is a hormone that helps the body convert the food your pet eats into energy. Insulin works by allowing the sugar to pass from the blood into the body's cells to make fat, sugar and protein. Without insulin, sugar cannot get into the body's cells. Insulin works whether the body makes its own insulin or if it is given by injection. Insulin is given as an injection when the pet has diabetes.

### *How do I give this medication?*

- Give this medication as directed by your veterinarian. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.**
- Measure the dose carefully.
- Do not shake the LANTUS INSULIN.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give more medicine than directed and **DO NOT** give more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.

### *What do I do if I miss giving a dose?*

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give two doses at once.

### *How do I store this medicine?*

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine in the refrigerator if it is unopened. **DO NOT FREEZE.**
- The opened VIAL can be kept refrigerated or unrefrigerated. (storage temperature cannot exceed 30°C)
- The opened LANTUS PEN **MUST** be kept unrefrigerated. (storage temperature cannot exceed 30°C)
- Discard any unused LANTUS INSULIN within 28 days of opening
- Unopened vials may be stored until the expiry date on the label is reached.
- Do not expose insulin to extreme heat or to sunlight. This will cause the insulin to become less effective quicker.

### *Potential Side Effects*

- If the pet receives too much insulin it may become hypoglycemic (low blood sugar). This could result in disorientation, weakness, hunger, drowsiness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, shakiness and possibly seizures and coma. If seizures occur, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- If the side effects are mild, offer your pet some food and contact your veterinarian. The dosage of insulin may need adjusting. If they are unwilling to eat, rub some honey or syrup on their gums.



- High blood sugar is another problem that may occur. Notify your veterinarian immediately if the following symptoms occur: drowsiness, dry mouth, flushed dry skin, increased urination, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, trouble breathing, unusual thirst.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

### ***Possible Drug Interactions***

- Make sure to **tell your veterinarian** any other medications, supplements, etc. you are giving.
- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor the pet more closely.
- **Contact your veterinarian** if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.