Withdrawing Medication From An Insulin Pen: A How-To Guide

**Insulin Importance**
Giving your pet insulin is an important task. Insulin injections are easy to administer at home with the right tools and education.

The following outlines how to safely and effectively inject your pet with insulin.

The mesh top of the medication vial is where you insert the syringe’s needle.

**Step-by-Step Process**

1. **Gather your supplies:** insulin pen, syringe, and an alcohol wipe.
2. **Wash your hands and ensure your environment is clean.** A clean area is essential to stop the spread of potential contaminants.
3. **Check the label to make sure you have the proper medication.** If your pet is taking multiple medications, it’s easy to mix them up. Always check to see which medicine you are about to use.
4. **Check the expiration date on the medication.** Manufacturers often cite expiration dates as 28 days from first puncture.
5. **Confirm the medication is transparent and has no color changes or particles floating in the pen.**
6. **Remove the pen cap and swab the mesh top with the alcohol swab.**
7. **Hold the syringe in your hand like a pencil with the needle pointed up.**
8. **With the cap still on the syringe, pull the plunger back to the dosage line.** This fills the syringe with air.
9. **Insert your needle into the mesh top at about a 45 degree angle with the bevel facing towards you.** Be aware that needles bend easily; make sure your needle stays straight.
10. **Inject the air into the insulin pen.**
11. **Turn the pen upside down and withdraw the amount of medication needed.**
12. **Remove the syringe from the pen.**
13. **Carefully put the cap back on the needle.**

**Air Bubbles**
If you have air bubbles in the syringe, follow these steps while your syringe is still inserted:

1. **Tap the syringe with your finger to move the air bubbles to the top.**
2. **Gently push on the plunger to expel the air from the syringe back into the vial.**
3. **If there are still many bubbles in the syringe, push all the medication back into the vial and slowly draw it back out again.**