



## Medication Dispensary

### 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 mesh top of the medication vial is where you insert the syringe's needle.*



Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGILo9uu-S0> for a video demonstration on how to safely and effectively withdraw medication from an insulin pen



Check out this helpful video!



### 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.
- 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.** Allow the alcohol swab to dry before moving onto step 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.**
- If you do not plan on using the syringe immediately, **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:

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

## VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

### Large Animal Clinic

Emergency, specialty, and primary care for horses and farm animals  
1102 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana  
(217) 333-2000

### Small Animal Clinic

Emergency and specialty services for small companion animals  
1008 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana  
(217) 333-5300

### South Clinic

Health and wellness care for dogs, cats, and zoological pets  
2100 Goodwin Avenue, Urbana  
(217) 244-2555

### Midwest Equine

Equine-only practice that provides equine veterinary and farrier services  
20844 Cumberland Road, Farmer City  
(309) 928-2127