INSULINOMA CRASH

As a ferret gets older, it is likely to get insulinoma (low blood glucose).

**Symptoms** can include the following:

* Sleeping a lot
* Head tilted to the side
* Not eating well,
* Pawing or clawing at the mouth when drinking or eating,
* Drooling
* Gagging
* Stumbling or falling over when walking
* Glassy look to the eyes
* Eating a lot but still having no energy
* Being nearly comatose
* Hind end weakness
* Can't stand up well

If your ferret seems to be in a stupor or coma, is showing signs of insulinoma and doesn’t want to take soup with meds, or is nauseous (pawing at the mouth, drooling, gagging), use a Q-tip to rub Glucose, Karo syrup or honey on the gums. (If you don’t have a Q-tip, use your finger.) This should perk the ferret up to the point it will feel like eating**. Do NOT give this regularly**. It can worsen insulinoma because of the high sugar content.

Keep doing this until the ferret is acting a little more stable. Then you need to feed the ferret something high in protein, like some of its high-protein kibble made into a soup or some chicken or turkey baby food. It is important you back up the sweet liquid on the gums with something high in protein. The high protein is what will help stabilize the blood glucose level. Then you need to get the ferret to the vet the same day or the next day at the latest.

 **Do not rub Glucose, Karo syrup, or honey on the gums if the ferret is not in serious shape, as it can do more harm than good.**