Libre Application

Your pet has been diagnosed as diabetic. Now what? How do we monitor their blood sugar or know if their insulin dose needs adjusted? The newest and most accurate way to monitor your pets blood sugar is with the Freestyle Libre sensor. The libre sensor is a human flash glucose monitoring system that measures glucose levels continuously for 14 days. We have had great success using the libre with cats and dogs, and it is the most stress-free option for your pet. Once one of the doctors at Sylvan recommends a libre the following steps will occur:

1. A prescription for the libre will be called in to the pharmacy of your choice. We recommend using Wal-Mart as they seem to have the best price. Also be sure to check the GoodRx app to see if they are running any specials. At that time, we will also schedule a technician appointment for you to bring your pet in for the libre to be applied.
2. Once you pick up the Libre, you will bring your pet and the libre to our office at the time of your technician appointment. The libre device is a small plastic circle that will be applied typically between your pet’s shoulder blades. The area where the libre is placed will also have the fur shaved off. We recommend placing a sweater or t-shirt on your pet to add a barrier in case they go to scratch or rub in that area.
3. If you have an iPhone 8 or newer, or the Android equivalent, you can use your phone to scan the libre. If you have an older phone, flip phone or do not have a cell phone you will have to use a reader supplied by our office. You will just scan your phone or the reader over the libre device as if you were scanning a barcode.
   1. If you are using your cell phone you must supply us with an email address if we do not already have one. When you schedule the technician appointment for the libre application we will then send you an email from LibreView\*\*. This email will contain a link to the FreeStyle LibreLink app, which is what you will open when you go to scan the Libre, as well as an accept invitation button to allow us to access your pets glucose readings. Please make sure you download the app and click the accept invitation button at the bottom of the screen.
   2. If you are using the reader, you will be required to document the information on your own ideally in an excel spreadsheet showing the date, time, and glucose reading.
4. If you are using your phone with the FreeStyle LibreLink our veterinarians will have access to your glucose readings online. Your veterinarian will contact you every 2-3 days after reviewing your pet’s glucose readings with insulin dose adjustments as needed. Please DO NOT adjust your pet’s insulin without consulting your veterinarian. Our veterinarians are available every day to discuss your pet’s insulin with you and insist that you contact our office with your questions or concerns before changing your pet’s insulin dose.
   1. If you are using the reader, you must send the documented date, time, and readings to our office ideally via email. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call our office and speak with a customer care representative to have them put the information into your pet’s medical record, and their veterinarian will be in touch with instructions based on the information you provide.
5. The ideal situation would be if you could scan the libre every 2 hours. We understand this is not feasible for all clients. Do the best you can. Ideally if you can plan for a long weekend or when you have multiple days off work this would be the best time to schedule for your pet to have a libre applied.
6. After 14 days, the libre will quit working. You will need to bring your pet back to our office to have the libre removed.

FAQ’s

-The Libre app is asking for your practice number. Where do I find that?

Sylvan Veterinary Hospital’s practice number is 8149358638

-How much does this cost?

The FreeStyle Libre sensor typically costs $65 at Wal-Mart. The application and information interpretation at Sylvan Veterinary Hospital is $65. The app does not have any fees associated with it, so the total cost is approximately $130.00.

-My pet got the sensor off. What should I do?

If your pet scratches or rubs at the sensor and it falls off, we will have to call in a new prescription and have a new sensor applied.

-Is the sensor painful for my pet?

Unfortunately, dogs and cats cannot talk to us but in humans it has been documented that the Libre sensor is painless and does not cause any aches or soreness.