

How to do a Lip Prick on a Dog to Test Blood Glucose

Supplies:

- Glucose meter and test strips
- lancet and lancet device (if used), or needle
- a tissue to dry the lip area before the prick and to stop bleeding, if necessary.

Preparing for the Glucose Test

If your dog has been resting on his side, the lip that was toward the floor will have more pooled blood and should be easier to get a sample from. Another idea is to take your dog for a walk, or massage the lip/muzzle area to stimulate blood flow before testing. You want dog to be relaxed and calm, so this is not the time for roughness or play biting. If your dog is not cooperative, and can't be bribed into good behavior, you may need a different approach.

Other BG test approaches include

- pricking a paw pad or calloused area.
- Ear pricks generally don't work well for dogs, but there are exceptions.

Pricking the Skin or Mucous Membrane



1. Have a large dog lay on its side, a smaller dog may be held on your lap or set on a table for testing. Locate the area of the upper inside lip (not the gum!), just above the canine tooth. Pricks here do not bother most dogs. Use different spots in the area and alternate sides of the mouth to give the lip a chance to heal between testing.
2. Wipe the area with a clean cloth or tissue to remove saliva (dry it). A prick toward the edge of the lip, works well.
3. Use the mark on the lancet device to help you aim where you will prick (raised ridge shows as bump in this picture).
4. Be patient, the drop will form. A gentle squeeze will produce a larger drop. The newer low volume meters require only a small drop of blood for a sample. The drop in the close up on the next page is plenty.



5. Most meters will "sip up" the blood drop with capillary action. You can see that the red fills the square and comes all the way down to outline the circle below. This demonstrates a completely

filled strip and a sufficient sample. If the strip only partially fills, and blood doesn't reach the circle, you may not have a sufficient sample. Most meters will give you a "beep" when they are properly loaded and the test is running.

6. Apply gently pressure with the tissue until the bleeding stops – usually much less than a minute.



Pricks can also be done in a similar manner on elbow calluses, non-haired part of the ear, foot pads, or base of the tail.

