

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine Alerts Veterinarians About Problems with Vetsulin® to Treat Diabetes in Dogs and Cats

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health are alerting veterinarians and pet owners that Vetsulin®, a porcine insulin zinc suspension used to treat diabetes in animals, may have varying amounts of crystalline zinc insulin in the formulation. Because this Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health product is out of specification it could cause a delay in insulin action and an overall longer duration of insulin activity. Products having significant problems with stability can affect the management of chronic diseases. Unstable insulin products can result in unpredictable fluctuations in the glucose levels of diabetic patients. Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health is unable to assure FDA that each batch of their product is stable.

FDA and Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health request that veterinarians closely monitor their patients receiving Vetsulin® for any changes in onset or duration of activity, or for any signs of hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia. The classic signs of hyperglycemia include increased thirst, increased urination, weight loss and lethargy. The classic signs of hypoglycemia would include disorientation, unsteadiness, weakness, lethargy, and seizures.

While Intervet/Schering-Plough is working with FDA on resolving this issue, supplies may be limited. Therefore, veterinarians should consider transitioning their diabetic patients to other insulin products. In addition, FDA encourages veterinarians to report any adverse events with the Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health product to the company through the Technical Services Department at 1-800-224-5318.

ISVMA Annual Convention Pre-registration Closed - Walkins Welcomed

Pre-registration for the 127th ISVMA Annual Convention at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL is now closed. Walk-in registrations are welcomed at the ISVMA Convention registration desk in the Peoria Civic Center. The registration desk will open at 7:00am on Friday, November 13, 2009.

The 127th ISVMA Annual Convention will be held at the Peoria Civic Center on November 13-15, 2009. A copy of the [full program brochure](#) is also available online.

FTC Announces Another Delay in Red-Flags Rule Enforcement

The Federal Trade Commission announced on October 30 that enforcement of the Red Flags Rule, designed to protect consumers against identity theft, has been delayed once again, until June 1, 2010. FTC announcement: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/10/redflags.shtm>.

About the Photo

One of the most beautiful of American waterfowl, the [Wood Duck](#) (*Aix sponsa*) was hunted nearly to extinction during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1918 the hunting season on the species was closed, and for the next two decades its numbers rose steadily. There are now well over a million Wood Ducks in North America. The Wood Duck's habit of nesting in cavities enables it to breed in areas lacking suitable ground cover. The young leave the nest soon after hatching, jumping from the nesting cavity to the ground or water. Once out of the nest, they travel through wooded ponds with their mother. Snapping turtles take a heavy toll of the young.

The Wood Duck is a beautiful, crested, multicolored duck. The male (drake) is patterned in iridescent greens, purples, and blues with a distinctive white chin patch and facial stripes. The bill is mainly red and the tail is relatively long. The female (hen) is grayish with a broad white eye ring. (*courtesy enature.com*)

I photographed this drake Wood Duck at North Pond in Chicago, IL in April 1998.

Contact Us

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