

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIABETIC CATS

Diabetes is a disease of the pancreas resulting in a lack of insulin production. The main function of insulin is to get glucose from the bloodstream into the body's cells where it can be used for energy.

When the level of glucose in the blood gets too high, it "spills over" into the urine, which produces an increase in urination. This dehydrates the body and makes many cats drink significantly more water.

The idea behind giving insulin injections is to replace this lack of insulin, but not give too much. Too much insulin will drop the blood glucose to dangerously low levels. Remember, too little insulin may make a cat sick but too much insulin can be fatal.

Normally, a cat will produce insulin throughout the day in response to various factors including exercise, eating habits and stress. Since you will be giving insulin injections on a set schedule, it will be important to keep your cat's daily routine as consistent as possible for best results.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIVING INSULIN

1. Injecting insulin:

- a) Keep insulin refrigerated. Mix gently before use (roll in palms of hands - **do not shake**).
- b) Draw up proper amount of insulin. Tap syringe to get rid of air bubbles.
- c) Pull up skin along back. Place needle to the skin and quickly "pop" the needle through the skin. **Do not inject yet.**
- d) Pull back on plunger of the syringe. If no blood is seen, push plunger in and withdraw syringe. If blood is seen, do NOT inject. Remove the syringe, throw it away and draw up a new dose.
- e) Clean needle with alcohol and replace cap.

2. If your cat moves when injecting insulin and did not get the entire dose, do NOT attempt to approximate the dosage by giving another injection. Just continue with the regular dosage next time.

3. Keep the type, amount and time of feeding, exercise and insulin injection as constant as possible. NO SNACKS.
4. Be sure to get the same type of insulin and syringe each time you refill them. Bring the empty insulin vial with you. Also make sure the insulin is not expired. There is an expiration date on the label.