

diabetic cats

OWNER INSTRUCTION SHEET

cat:

Name Date diabetes diagnosed

Weight at time of diagnosis Estimated ideal weight

diet:

Food

Amount to be fed Frequency/timing of feeding

insulin:

Insulin type Dose

storage instructions The insulin bottle should be kept in the door of the fridge at all times. It is important that it is not frozen or left out at any time, as this will damage the insulin.

administering the insulin When the insulin bottle is taken out of the fridge it should be *gently* turned up and down to mix the contents (do not shake the bottle vigorously as this will damage the insulin). The correct amount of insulin should be drawn up in the appropriate syringe provided by your vet, and injected under the skin on the scruff of your cat's neck, as demonstrated by your vet. More than one type of insulin syringe is available, and it is very important to use the correct type. The wrong syringe might mean your cat receives an incorrect amount of insulin, which can be dangerous.

additional medication:

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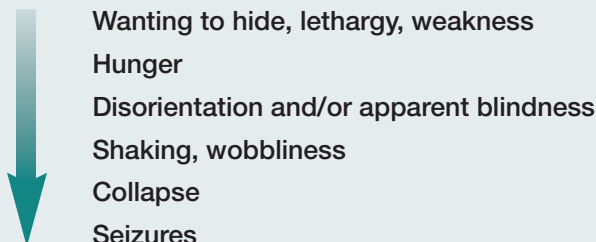
monitoring your cat for signs of inadequate control of diabetes:

Please keep a diary for your cat, recording the following observations:

- **Bodyweight** Take recordings at least every 2 weeks if your cat is on a weight loss programme. A subjective assessment of body condition should also be made regularly
- **Demeanour** eg, Bright and active, or lethargic and weak
- **Appetite** Amount eaten daily; eg, normal amount, less than normal (approximately how much less?) or cat more hungry than normal?
- **Thirst** Amount drunk daily; volume (either measured or approximate) or normal/increased/decreased?
- **Coat** General condition
- **Urination** Frequency/volume of urination; if cat uses a litter tray, normal/increased/decreased frequency and/or volume of urination (eg, more or larger 'clumps' of litter). Weighing tray daily (at the same time) can also give a measure of any change in volume of urine being produced
- **Urine ketones** Measured periodically using a dipstick, as directed by your vet

monitoring your cat for signs of insulin overdosage (hypoglycaemia):

Signs of hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar) can occur at any time but are most likely at the time of maximal insulin action, which is usually around 4–8 hours after giving insulin, depending on the type of insulin your cat is receiving. The lower the blood sugar levels go, and the more rapidly they drop, the more severe the signs will be. In order of **increasing severity** these include:



Hypoglycaemia can be life threatening if left untreated so it is very important that early signs are recognised and treated

what to do if you notice any of these signs:

If signs are mild and your cat will eat, offering food may be enough to relieve the signs. If signs are more severe, or if your cat will not eat, glucose syrup, honey, jam or sugar water can be rubbed on the gums. Your veterinary surgeon should then be contacted for further advice. **If signs have progressed to collapse or seizures, an emergency vet should be contacted immediately.**