

## What is Diabetes Mellitus?

- Diabetes Mellitus is an inability of the body to produce or respond to insulin. Insulin is required to process glucose so that it can be used to provide energy to the body.

- Diabetic animals therefore have high blood sugar (glucose) levels. In cats, diabetes can be caused by obesity and may be reversible.

## Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus

### Insulin

The most important part of treatment is giving injections of insulin. The correct dose will be determined by your vet. Initially it may take some time to determine the correct dose and so it is important to follow instructions.

### Diet

A special low carbohydrate diet such as Hill's M/D or R/D or Royal Canine Diabetic formula will likely be recommended.

Daily routine is VERY important in diabetic patients and so changes in diet type, quantity or timing should be avoided.



## Complications

Please contact us immediately if:

- you think you have given too much insulin
- your pet is not eating for more than 24 hours – do not give insulin
- your pet seems tired and weak – put some honey in the mouth whilst you contact us
- your pet is urinating more frequently or having difficulty urinating
- your pet is drinking more than normal

## Monitoring Your Diabetic Pet at Home

Our vet can show you how to monitor blood glucose readings at home or this can be done in the clinic (your pet may need to stay with us for the day). New monitoring systems such as the Freestyle Libre have recently made glucose monitoring at home even easier. Please contact us if you would like more information.



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