



## HEMOCARE NOTES: DIABETES

Your cat has been diagnosed with **diabetes mellitus**.

Usually this means that **not enough insulin** is being produced **to let glucose ('blood sugar')** into cells around the body for energy.

**Without** providing **insulin**, the **glucose is left in the bloodstream**, where it builds up to very high levels. If this remains **untreated**, **a diabetic cat will** lose weight and **eventually starve** to death **even if eating more** than usual.

Some of this excess **glucose** is extracted from the blood by the kidneys **and excreted in the urine**. This excess glucose in the urine **draws lots of water with it**, which will cause increased urination. **To compensate** for this loss, the uncontrolled diabetic must **drink more** water.

You will **need to give** insulin **injections** to your cat **twice a day**. Many people initially feel uneasy about needles but **ALL** of our clients with diabetic cats **agree** that **giving injections is easier than giving tablets!**

**To regulate** the **insulin and blood sugar levels**, **insulin and food** must be provided at **strict intervals** and in **strict amounts**.

After an initial day or several days in hospital, your cat will be initially stabilised. A routine will be established for the medication and feeding.

You will **choose times** that you will be able to consistently medicate and feed your cat. **For example, 7AM and 7PM** or 6:30AM and 6:30PM.

It's important to re-assess cats after 3 days, a further week after that, then a month later then three monthly. The rechecks are important since insulin requirements can vary. Sometimes extra rechecks are indicated.

### REMEMBER:

- \* Keep the insulin in the fridge
- \* Shake the bottle gently before use
- \* Inject just under a pinch of skin (ie subcutaneously)

### IMPORTANT:

If you are unsure whether you gave the insulin injection correctly **DO NOT RE-ADMINISTER IT**. Don't worry, just feed your cat as normal.

If you forget to give the insulin injection, don't worry. Just miss that injection and re-administer as usual 12 hours later.

**Call us immediately if your cat shows any of the following signs: weakness, depression, seizures, stops eating, or increases drinking and urination. This may mean that your cat's blood sugar may be too low or too high.**

Of course, call us about any other concerns you may have.