

# Caring for Cats

3/23/20



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# C H A P T E R 1

## Mac

Mac is my cat who had diabetes. This chapter is about how to care for a cat that has diabetes. While not all cats are the same, this chapter specifically deals with how I cared for Mac, as shown in Figure 1-1.

**FIGURE 1-1** MAC



### 1.1 CARING FOR MAC

When I cared for Mac, it was important to do the following:

- Check blood sugar level twice daily.
- Administer insulin twice daily.
- Feed Mac twice daily.
- Make sure Mac has two bowls of water.
- If Mac has low blood sugar, provide sugar, such as strawberry yogurt or Karo syrup.
- If Mac's level is too high or too low and he is ill, take him to the vet or Animal Emergency.

The blood sugar levels for diabetic cats are higher than non-diabetic cats, as shown in Table 1-1. For information on ketoacidosis, see Chapter 1, “Mac.”

TABLE 1-1 CAT BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS

	Non-Diabetic Cats	Diabetic Cats
Blood sugar level	80 -120 mg/dL	400+ mg/dL

1.2 KETOACIDOSIS

When blood sugar levels get too high, diabetic cats can experience feline diabetic **ketoacidosis**. It is caused by the breakdown of fat and protein in an effort for the need of more metabolic energy. This condition is a potentially life-threatening emergency that requires immediate medical attention.

Treatment includes aggressive fluid therapy (most important), potassium and phosphorus supplementation, insulin therapy, and possible bicarbonate administration (rarely needed).

A cat with ketoacidosis is shown in Figure 1-2.

*Note: The cat in Figure 1-2 is not Mac.*

FIGURE 1-2 KETOACIDOSIS



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# C H A P T E R 2

## Billy

Billy is my tuxedo cat who had kidney disease. This chapter is about how to care for a cat that has kidney disease. While not all cats are the same, this chapter specifically deals with how I cared for Billy.

### 2.1 CARING FOR BILLY

When I cared for Billy, it was important to do the following:

- Feed Billy a special diet prescribed by the vet.
- Perform a sub-Q procedure once a week to flush his kidneys. For information on a sub-Q procedure, see Chapter 2, “*Billy*.”

**FIGURE 2-1 BILLY**



### 2.2 PERFORMING A SUB-Q

The steps on how to perform a sub-q are listed below.

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**PERFORMING A SUB-Q**

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- Step 1.** Fold a clean towel and place on the kitchen counter.
- Step 2.** Hang the IV bag on a hanger hanging from a kitchen cabinet.
- Step 3.** Attach a new, clean needle to the IV bag.
- Step 4.** Put the cat on the counter and hold the cat while gently inserting the needle in the center of the back of the cat's neck.
- Step 5.** When the IV bag is empty, remove the needle from the cat's neck and gently place the cat on the floor.

A sub-q procedure is shown in Figure 2-2.

*Note: The cat in Figure 2-2 is not Billy.*

**FIGURE 2-2 SUB-Q PROCEDURE**



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