Caring for Cats

4/2/20



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CHAPTER 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. For additional information, see *1.1 Caring for Mac* on page 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 levels 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 *1.2 Treating Ketoacidosis* on page 1-2.

TABLE 1-1 Cat Blood Sugar Levels

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

1.2 Treating 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 phosphorous 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 Cat with Ketoacidosis



CHAPTER 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 2.2 Performing a Sub-Q on page 2-2.

FIGURE 2–1 Billy



2.2 PERFORMING A SUB-Q

PERFORMING A SUB-Q

- **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 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



NUMERICS	T
1H_Heading1 1–1 2H_Heading2 1–2	therapy1-2
\mathbf{A}	V
Animal1–2	vet1–2, 2-1
	W
<u>B</u>	water1–1
blood1-1, 1–2	
D	
diabetes 1–1	
E	
Emergency 1–2	
I	
insulin1–1	
K	
ketoacidosis1–2, 1-3	
S	
sub-Q2–1, 2-2	
sugar1-1, 1–2	