

## Feline Diabetes

Food (Carbohydrates, fat, protein) is broken down to glucose, which is used for energy by the body

Diabetes is a state of excessive glucose circulating in the blood stream, with too little entering the cells of the body

Common causes include genetic factors, increased age, and being overweight

Commonly classified as type II:

- o Characterized by
  - decreased insulin production from the pancreas
  - decreased sensitivity to circulating insulin

Signs your cat may have Diabetes

- o Increased drinking and urinating, and sometimes increased appetite
- o Weight loss
- o Lethargy and looking unhealthy

What can happen if it is left untreated?

- o Ketoacidosis can develop, which can be life threatening
- o Liver disease can develop
- o Nerve disorders can be seen
- o Secondary bacterial infections can occur

### Treatment

1. Insulin (Lantus) injections are required every 12 hours
  - a. One vial can be good for up to 1 month
  - b. Store insulin in the refrigerator
  - c. Use a new syringe for each injection and swab the rubber stopper with alcohol prior to use
  - d. Gently mix and warm the insulin prior to injection
  - e. Give injections on the side of the abdomen. Alternate sides. Minimal restraint is best
    - i. If you are unsure if a given injection was successful, wait until the next injection.
    - ii. Monitor for any swellings at the injection sites
  - f. Draw up a larger amount of insulin into the syringe. Flick the syringe a few times with your finger to dislodge any air bubbles. Then push any air bubbles and excess insulin back into the vial. Stop when you reach the number of units that have been prescribed.
2. Diet: Best is a high protein, low carbohydrate canned food. Feed 2.25 oz twice daily with insulin injections/ 8-12 lb. cat