



# Low Cost Vet Mobile

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## Your Diabetic Cat

The diagnosis of diabetes in a pet cat can be initially daunting to an owner as they picture insulin injections and blood sugar monitoring. Although maintaining diabetic cats can involve increased work at home, it is possible to manage them with a routine that is comfortable for the owner and the cat.

Management of the diabetic cat is a multifactorial process and involves changing their diet to decrease their carbohydrate intake, administering insulin if needed, and monitoring blood sugar to determine if adequate insulin is being administered. One thing that is important to understand about feline diabetes is that, unlike humans, cats can be *transient diabetics* and their insulin requirement may lower or even stop during their lifetimes. Below are summaries of recommendations and monitoring techniques that may be discussed with your veterinarian.

There are numerous helpful diabetic cat websites with photos and videos of everything from insulin administration to blood glucose monitoring. These include:

[www.sugarpet.net](http://www.sugarpet.net)

[www.5min.com](http://www.5min.com) (type in “insulin injection cat”)

[www.wonderhowto.com](http://www.wonderhowto.com) (go to “pets and animals” category, then go to “cats”)

### Diet

The insulin requirement of diabetic cats can be lowered significantly if they are offered a high protein, low carbohydrate diet. This formulation also encourages weight loss which is essential to diabetics. Canned foods are naturally lower in carbohydrates than dry foods and diabetic cats should be offered mainly canned food with significantly decreased dry food. If dry food is offered, prescription diabetic formulas such as Hill’s m/d or Purina DM should be chosen due to their low carb content. With proper weight reduction and change of diet, some cats can be found to be transient diabetics.

### Insulin

The choice of insulin for your cat is largely based on cost, availability, and personal preference. It is important to note that different insulins can use different syringes and syringes are not interchangeable. For example, glargine insulin uses a U-100 syringe with smaller sized units while PZI uses a U-40 syringe with larger units. Using the wrong syringe can grossly under or overestimate the insulin dose.

