



# THE FELINE

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A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, WINTER 2011/2012

## YOUR DIABETIC CAT

When Sarah's cat, Snuggles, was diagnosed as diabetic, Sarah didn't know what to expect. "I thought it was a death sentence," she says. "I cried."

*Diabetes affects the concentration of glucose in your cat's blood. It results from a shortage of insulin, or when the cat's body has trouble using properly the insulin it has made.*

"We noticed her drinking huge amounts," Sarah says. "And the litter box was soaked all the time."

*Some common signs of diabetes in cats include polydipsia (drinking large amounts of water), polyuria (more frequent urination), polyphagia (eating hungrily, but losing weight), lethargy (less active, sleeping more), and thinning, dry hair. Cats that live with high glucose levels for a year or more may have nerve damage resulting in weakness and muscle wasting, usually in the hind legs.*

"Snuggles' previous owner overfed her," says Sarah, "and we had been trying to help her lose weight."

*Most commonly affected are older cats and neutered male cats, although diabetes has been diagnosed in cats of all ages, both genders, altered and unaltered, and all cat breeds. Additional risk factors include obesity, physical inactivity, and other disorders such as chronic pancreatitis and hyperthyroidism.*

"Luckily, we caught Snuggles' diabetes early. The veterinarian tested her urine and blood," says Sarah. "Then we began injections and a special diet. I consulted with the veterinary technicians constantly until I understood what to do. I met a lady online who had managed diabetic cats, and she encouraged me to keep trying. After that I became more hopeful, and even a little proud to have a cat whose medical issues I could manage and whose quality of life I had improved."

*Early diagnosis is vital to effective management of feline diabetes. Diagnosis is considered definite when there is a persistently high concentration of glucose in the cat's blood and in its urine. Because each cat is different, your veterinarian will determine which method is best to monitor your cat's blood glucose concentration, and the frequency of testing needed.*

"It took discipline to do more than just treat the diabetes, to change everything about Snuggles' diet and lifestyle. I learned to better manage her health, and to keep track of the blood sugar numbers. I watched for Snuggles' insulin needs to increase or decrease, and treated her accordingly."

*Many cat owners are anxious about giving injections. But once started, these become routine and cause little stress for you or for your cat.*

"The injections weren't that bad," says Sarah. "The hardest part was that I had to be home every twelve hours to feed."

*The goal in managing diabetes is to keep glucose concentrations regulated, avoiding spikes and drops, reducing the signs of diabetes listed above. Your veterinarian will advise you on the best diet for your diabetic cat, including daily amounts to be fed. Ideally, your cat should be offered the same amount of food at the same time(s) every day, and the insulin given at a specific time.*



"Then, after six months, the diabetes went into remission. We were delighted!"

*Clinical remission does not mean that your cat's diabetes has been cured. Care must still be taken with your cat's diet and activity level, and insulin injections may again be required at a later date. Regular medical progress exams will help identify changes in your cat's condition.*

*Cats whose diabetes is under control have normal thirst, appetite, urination, and activity levels. Their weight is generally stable, and they are less likely to develop complications.*

"Snuggles went on to live a long life, and it gave us a good feeling to have helped her. She was a good cat!"



by Vikky Warner

### ***Dear Opie is asking today “Have we seen your cat lately?”***

*The veterinary care industry is seeing an alarming rise in the number of cats whose owners do not take them to the veterinarian for a yearly exam and recommended vaccinations. At MPMC we believe that regular veterinary care is the best way to keep your cat healthy and happy. That is why we continue to send you reminders and call you on the phone to remind you that your cat needs to come in for an exam and/or vaccinations. For some, we realize the hardest part is just catching the cat and getting it into a cat carrier. Below, we’ve outlined some steps that might help with that. It is important to realize that cats can be masters at hiding illness. Subtle signs can mean that your cat is sick. Inappropriate litter box use, changes in interaction with the family, changes in activity, changes in sleeping habits, changes in grooming and unexplained weight loss or gain are just some of the signs that your cat might not be feeling well. Call us today and bring your cat in for an exam. Catching a problem before it turns into a serious illness can save your cat’s life.*

#### **Cat Carrier Techniques**

- ***Start with a carrier that is easy to take your cat in and out of. Top loading carriers work best.***
- ***Make the carrier a part of the family room furniture. Many people have the carrier put away in a closet or in the garage, so their cat has not had a chance to rub on it or sleep in it. Their scent is not on it. Allowing your cat to rub on the carrier “marks” the carrier as his.***
- ***Place a soft towel inside for your cat to rest on.***
- ***Place part of the day’s food in the carrier. Eventually your cat will begin to make the association of food – carrier – good!***
- ***When your cat wants to be left alone, place a treat or a little yummy canned food in the carrier, so that your cat will seek solitude in his carrier and get a reward for doing so!***

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## **FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK**

Magrane Pet Medical Center prides itself in staying current with the most up-to-date medicine available for your pet. When it comes to social networking, we want to do the same. However, we can’t do this without your help. Please search for and friend Magrane Pet Medical Center on Facebook today and begin networking with our clients and staff. It is a fun way to share stories, pictures, and information with people who have something in common; a unique bond with their pets.



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## **CAT GROOMING AT MAGRANE**

Due to popular request, Magrane Pet Medical Center is offering cat grooming. Needed most by long-haired cats, the grooming will include removal of matted hair and shaving to restore a balanced appearance to your pet. Other options include bathing, shaving cats to resemble lions or teddy bears, nail trims, and banishing fleas. For highly nervous cats, we offer mild sedation to make the experience more pleasant for everyone.

Give us a call to schedule your cat’s beauty treatment!



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If you have a short story about your cat that you would like to share with us, please email it to [stezich1@yahoo.com](mailto:stezich1@yahoo.com) or bring it in to Magrane Pet Medical Center. We would also like a photo to go along with the story. We will make an effort to publish all of the entries submitted. Thank you!

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