



# Island Cats

## Home Blood Glucose Curve

In order to minimize stress to our cats and to minimize personal costs of veterinary care, many owners would like to do as much as possible at home. One diagnostic procedure that can be done at home for diabetic cats is the blood glucose curve. Often cats are difficult to regulate while on insulin and multiple trips to the veterinarian can become stressful. It would be our pleasure to train you how to perform this testing and continue consulting with your veterinarian from the comfort of your own home.

It's very important to check your cat's glucose levels in order to maintain proper insulin regulation. A cat who is receiving the wrong dose of insulin can find themselves in diabetic shock which can be a serious emergency. Cat's insulin levels need monitoring and change. They can even reach a state where they no longer need insulin so it cannot be stressed enough how important regular glucose testing is. Your veterinarian will work with you to set a recheck schedule depending on how regulated your cat is, in addition to determining diet and exercise changes that your cat needs.

If your cat is unregulated or experiencing abnormal symptoms s/he may need an exam, further diagnostics, or treatments. Your veterinary health care team will help guide you through your cat's symptoms and treatment plan to ensure the best regulation, comfort, and health of your kitty.

**If your cat is ever stumbling, weak, prostrate, or non-responsive:  
do NOT give insulin and seek emergency care right away.**



## ORDER OF EVENTS AND COSTS

1. **Purchase a glucometer with strips and lancets.** Ask your veterinarian for a recommendation – Costs, convenience, and accuracy vary pending which model you choose. Island Cats currently uses the UltiCare iPet glucose meter with test strips. This monitor and strips can be purchased through Island Cats or a variety of online sources ranging from \$45 - \$55. Strips usually range from \$25 - \$55 depending on how many you purchase at a time. For more information on this particular monitor and how to use it see: <http://ulti-care.com/iPet-Blood-Glucose-Monitoring.html>
2. **Schedule a demonstration with one of the veterinary nurses or technician to learn how to test your cat's blood glucose at home.** You should bring your cat for this appointment if at all possible. Every cat is unique so it tends to be helpful to learn on your own kitty, but is not required if your cat is unmanageable out of his/her home. Please bring your monitor & strips with you so that we can demonstrate how to use your own equipment. We will also review your cat's diabetic recheck schedule at this time. (\$17.50)
3. **Check your cat's blood glucose as scheduled.** There is an online video that shows the home blood glucose ear technique: [www.islandcats.com](http://www.islandcats.com) (click on the "Library" tab to access the "how-to" online video). If you have any concerns prior to your recheck date, perform a bg curve now and jump to number 4. Although more expensive in supplies and services, it is *always* better for your kitty to check too often than not enough. An unregulated cat can end up at the emergency hospital which costs a much greater amount of time, money, and stress to both you and your cat. A cat who is hypoglycemic is at risk of death and is always considered an emergency.
4. **Send your blood glucose results to Island Cats via email, fax, or drop off.** The blank blood glucose curve worksheet is available on our website: [www.islandcats.com](http://www.islandcats.com) (click on "Downloadable Forms" tab), or we can email this to you, or you can pick up a blank worksheet at Island Cats. Turn this completed worksheet in to Island Cats via fax, email, or in person.
5. **Schedule a consultation with your veterinarian.** The doctor will review your cat's current symptoms in addition to the diagnostic information prior to speaking with you. The doctor will work with you to determine a plan and make adjustments to your cat's treatment, diet, or exercise plans, as well as answer any questions or concerns that have come up since your cat's last recheck. Depending on how well regulated your cat is, the doctor's review may take some time so it's best to schedule your consultation at least a few hours after you've submitted your cat's glucose curve. (\$17.00 - \$28.00)