

# Guidelines at a Glance

Diabetes management in cats requires a different approach from diabetes in dogs. With the availability of SGLT2-inhibitor drugs for cats, treatment strategies continue to diverge between these two species. To help primary care providers better serve their feline patients, the *AAHA Diabetes Management Guidelines for Cats* provides step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of diabetes mellitus in cats.

In these guidelines, veterinary teams will find:

- An overview of diabetes pathophysiology in cats to understand the species-specific aspects of this disease
- How to diagnose diabetes mellitus in cats
- How to recognize and manage at-risk cats
- SGLT2 inhibitor treatment and monitoring
- Insulin treatment and monitoring
- Expert tips on troubleshooting issues and problems
- Treating diabetic ketoacidosis and euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis
- What tests to use to monitor glycemic status
- How to recognize diabetic remission
- Dietary management tips
- How to talk to clients
- Charts and algorithms that provide step-by-step guidance for:
  - Starting SGLT2 inhibitor treatment
  - Types of insulin and starting dosages
  - Troubleshooting hypoglycemia
- Approach to cats on insulin who have become unregulated



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## 3 Takeaways



A diabetes diagnosis requires evidence of sustained hyperglycemia, which includes one or more of the following: increased fructosamine or hemoglobin A1C concentration, or hyperglycemia or glucosuria documented on more than one occasion while in a non-stressed or home environment.



In-hospital blood glucose curves are not recommended for cats.



Not every cat is a suitable candidate for an SGLT2-inhibitor drug. Careful patient selection is required.

## 2 Actions



When diagnosing diabetes in cats, it's important to identify any comorbidities or conditions that may cause insulin resistance and interfere with a cat's response to treatment.



For cats receiving insulin treatment, remember to monitor the cat and not just the numbers. Often resolution of clinical signs and a cat who is feeling well is a good indicator of diabetic regulation.

## 1 Thing to Never Forget



Cats who develop diabetes can live comfortably with their condition for the rest of their lives, and some cats may experience disease remission.