Understanding your cat's DIABETES
What is diabetes?

Hearing that your cat has diabetes may make you feel anxious and confused. But be assured, help is at hand!

In this leaflet we will explain how with appropriate care, feline diabetes is now completely manageable. Diabetes is not a painful disease and with diet and therapy your cat can expect to live a full and healthy life.

After a meal, glucose is released into a cat's bloodstream. The pancreas then secretes insulin which allows glucose to enter cells where it can be used for energy.

With diabetes mellitus there is a lack of insulin (or lack of efficacy of insulin). This prevents cells from taking up glucose, leading to high blood glucose. Fat is then used as an alternative energy source, and this can lead to further complications (e.g. acidosis, an accumulation of acids in the blood, or liver dysfunction).

What are the signs of diabetes?

Some common signs of diabetes include:

- Increased urinary volume and frequency.
- Increased water intake.
- Weight loss, sometimes despite an increase in food intake.

How does your vet diagnose diabetes?

After giving your cat a thorough physical examination and discussing their clinical signs, your vet may perform blood tests and/or urine tests to look for excessive levels of glucose.
How is diabetes managed?

Most diabetic cats require daily insulin injections to recover normal blood glucose. While the prospect of injecting your cat may seem very daunting, don’t worry – your vet and veterinary nurse are there to help. With adequate support, most owners find giving insulin surprisingly easy!

The goal of insulin therapy is to maintain blood glucose within a safe range throughout the day. As your cat’s glucose level is stabilised, you should notice their condition improving.

Once treatment is started, your cat needs to be monitored to assess how they respond to the therapy and to make sure that blood glucose levels are not too high (hyperglycaemia) or too low (hypoglycaemia). Remember to be patient: every cat’s glucose control is different and it may take some time to get the dose just right.

To help your vet monitor your cat’s progress it can be very helpful to record:

- Daily: water and food intake, frequency and amount of urination, and general behaviour.

Food is important.

Your vet is likely to advise you to change your cat’s diet for a diet high in protein and very low in carbohydrates, such as PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management, in combination with insulin treatment. As dietary carbohydrates have the biggest impact on blood sugar levels, a diet with restricted carbohydrates can really help control blood glucose and lower insulin requirements.

Obesity can worsen diabetes. Diet can also be instrumental in correcting obesity and controlling the disease. If your cat needs to lose weight it’s important for you and your vet to monitor glucose levels during their weight loss because insulin requirements can change too.

Development of a low blood glucose level (hypoglycaemia) is seen very occasionally in diabetic cats. If this develops there will be signs of severe tiredness or weakness and you should contact your vet immediately. Giving the cat some honey or glucose syrup by mouth may rapidly improve their strength and level of consciousness.
Benefits of feeding Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management to your cat:

- Clinically proven to reduce the need for insulin injections
  Important for diabetic cats and helps control blood glucose levels.

- Contains low level of carbohydrates
  Enables slower and controlled release of glucose after eating.

- Enhanced levels of vitamin E
  To fight oxidative stress associated with diabetes.

PURINA®: a name you can trust.

PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS are backed by strong science, and the latest nutritional findings are applied to bring you some of the most innovative and effective formulas. With Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management wet and dry formulas, you can be confident that your cat will benefit from a diet that provides optimum nutrition whilst their diabetes is being managed.

St/Ox – a reassurance for urinary tract health.

Many diabetic cats are overweight, which is a risk factor for developing urinary conditions such as urinary stones and crystals. Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management dry and wet products are now specially formulated to help reduce the risk of urinary conditions occurring.

Feeding guidelines for Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management:

This feeding programme is recommended as a guideline only. Your vet may make adjustments to help maintain your cat's optimal weight. Provide fresh water daily in a clean container.

Caution: insulin requirements may be reduced with the use of this diet. It is critical that the transition from your cat's current diet to Feline DM St/Ox Diabetes Management is slow and blood glucose is carefully monitored.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Daily feeding quantities (adult maintenance)</th>
<th>Daily feeding quantities (adult weight loss)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dry Only (g/day)</td>
<td>Wet Only (can/day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1(\frac{1}{4})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1(\frac{1}{4})</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2(\frac{1}{2})</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

For each additional 1 kg of body weight, feed an additional \(\frac{1}{3}\) of can per day and 14 g of dry food for weight maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body weight (kg)</th>
<th>Daily feeding quantities (Can + Dry Combined)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wet (can/day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1(\frac{1}{2})</td>
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<td>8</td>
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Your veterinary clinic details:

For more information about PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets, contact your local sales representative or visit www.purina-proplan.co.uk/veterinarydiets

Ask the Experts
UK: 0800 212 161 IE: 1800 509 368 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday
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Please note that all indications for PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets mentioned in this leaflet are for the dietary support of cats with the listed conditions and do not preclude appropriate medical management. The veterinary diets should be used under veterinary supervision. ®Reg. Trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.