

Fluid Treatments at Home

Items Needed:

- ø Bag of prescription fluids
- ø Hanger
- ø New needle
- ø Your cat

Directions:

1. Hang the fluids up as high as possible where you can still read the fluids measurement.
2. Change the needle before each treatment.
3. Run your hand along your kitty's back and feel for their shoulder blades. "Tent" the skin over the shoulder blades and insert the needle at the base with it's opening facing upward, parallel to the spine.
4. Roll the lever upwards to open the line. (Sometimes the lever will crimp the line closed so it may be necessary to move the controls upwards/downwards and pinch the crimp out of the line)
5. Monitor the amount of fluids given, once prescribed amount is given roll the lever down to close the line and gently pinch the skin around the needle while withdrawing it.
6. Sometimes a capillary may have been hit and cause a small amount of bleeding. Do not be alarmed. Just go ahead and lightly pinch the site to stop the bleeding.
7. Give your kitty a treat that's been approved by your veterinarian so that this is a more positive experience for them!

Some Tricks of the Trade:

- ø Place the line in a bowl of warm water it to help warm the fluids to a more comfortable temperature. You can also dunk the bag of fluids upside-down in a bucket of warm water and let sit for about 10-15 minutes. Take care in making sure you do not submerge the part of the bag that the fluid line is attached.
- ø When the kitty would rather run away you can try wrapping a towel "kitty burrito" style around the kitty and maneuver an opening for fluids; or, for ease of use, we rent "kitty bags" and can demonstrate use for you.
- ø If fluids seem to be running slowly, try re-"tenting" the skin on the back to allow for more space for the fluids. If skin seems really tight and there seems to be no room for fluids to go, it may not be necessary for the full prescribed amount to be given.
- ø Some kitties may do well if they can sit in the bottom half of their carrier while you administer their fluids.