

## Managing Diabetes

**Changes in your cat's diet can help you manage your pet's diabetes.**

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The main goals in treating diabetes mellitus are to eliminate contributing diseases, resolve any secondary problems caused by diabetes mellitus and establish acceptable blood sugar levels.

Any bacterial infections need to be eliminated, including cystitis and dental disease. Diabetes mellitus may cause or worsen these infections, which may also contribute to ongoing pancreatic inflammation and damage. Most diabetic cats should undergo several weeks of broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy and have a dental cleaning as soon as their health is stable. Other hormonal disease should be treated as necessary.

The most important underlying conditions to address are obesity and poor nutrition. Many obese diabetic cats will become non-diabetic with proper weight loss and diet. Those that still require insulin will usually be easier to regulate.

Diets with higher fiber levels are considered ideal for diabetic management.