

Diet and Feline Diabetes

It is really simple. Feed your cat **wet food that is LOW carbohydrate**.

Feeding your cat non-dry cat food is the best thing you can do for your cat, diabetic or not. A cat is an "obligate carnivore." That means the physiology and anatomy of the cat are suited to eating a high protein, meat diet. Dry food, even prescription diabetic food, just cannot meet this requirement for high protein.

A low-carbohydrate, high protein, wet diet has been associated with remission (disappearance of symptoms) of diabetes in cats. You can feed your cat a raw or cooked diet that you make yourself or there are many excellent high protein canned foods available. Our office recommends Purina DM food. As a cost-conscious compromise, you can feed readily available low-cost canned foods, such as certain varieties of Fancy Feast.

Do your cat a favor and feed them protein.

You can use the below chart to compare the protein/carb ratio of your food to the prescription diet food designed for diabetic cats.

Nutritional composition of Purina DM (Diabetic Management) food:

AVERAGE NUTRIENT COMPOSITION				
	DRY		CANNED	
	As Fed	Dry Matter	As Fed	Dry Matter
Protein, %	53.30	57.85	12.65	53.38
Fat, %	16.50	17.91	7.79	32.87
Carbohydrate, %**	13.79	14.97	1.07	4.51
Fiber, %	1.17	1.26	0.70	2.95
Calcium, %	1.46	1.58	0.25	1.05
Phosphorus, %	1.40	1.52	0.30	1.27
Potassium, %	1.14	1.23	0.26	1.10
Sodium, %	0.54	0.60	0.11	0.46
Chloride, %	0.77	0.84	0.15	0.63
Magnesium, %	0.12	0.13	0.02	0.08
Vitamin E, IU/kg	100	109	124	523
Taurine, %	0.34	0.37	0.07	0.30
Omega-6:3 ratio	5.7:1	5.7:1	7.3:1	7.3:1
Total Omega-6, %	2.02	2.19	1.54	6.5
Total Omega-3, %	0.36	0.39	0.21	0.89

**Calculated value