

Methylcobalamin as a Treatment for Peripheral Neuropathy in Diabetic* Cats

WHAT IS PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?

Peripheral neuropathy, or nerve damage, is a condition caused by diabetes. When a diabetic* cat has high blood glucose (blood sugar) levels, abnormally large amounts of glucose are taken into nerve cells. (Nerve cells can take in glucose even without insulin.) The glucose causes waste materials and toxins to build up inside the cells, damaging the cells and slowing nerve signals.

Does your diabetic* cat have peripheral neuropathy? Look for the following symptoms:

- Weak hind legs
- Feet slipping out from under him/her on the floor
- Walking down on the hocks in back and/or on the wrists in front
- Lying down more frequently, especially after short walks

If your diabetic* cat has these symptoms, he or she may have neuropathy, the result of high blood glucose and the damage it does to nerve cells.

METHYLCOBALAMIN MAY HELP YOUR DIABETIC* CAT

Methylcobalamin, a form of vitamin B12, has shown great benefit to cats (and people) with neuropathy and other neuromuscular diseases. Unlike regular B12 (cyanocobalamin), Methylcobalamin is active in spinal fluid. Because of this, it is able to help heal the damaged nerve cells and restore the nerve signal to your cat's weakened muscles. It is a very safe vitamin (it is water-soluble -- meaning the cat urinates out what isn't used -- and studies have shown no side effects, even at very high doses). Ask your vet about adding this supplement to your diabetic* cat's diet.

NOTE: Methylcobalamin is NOT a cure for diabetes. Methylcobalamin works best if you control your cat's blood glucose levels as your veterinarian advises. Even if your diabetic* cat's neuropathy improves, you must continue to give your cat his insulin or oral medication as prescribed by your veterinarian.

* If your cat is NOT diabetic, these symptoms are a sign of something else, and you should take your cat to a veterinarian without delay.

LAURIE AND JASPER'S STORY

Laurie Ulrich was heartbroken when her diabetic cat, Jasper, developed peripheral neuropathy. Unwilling to accept that Jasper would be crippled for the rest of his life, Laurie began researching treatments for neuropathy. When she discovered an article detailing the use of methylcobalamin in diabetic humans, she asked her veterinarian if methylcobalamin might help Jasper. Her vet determined that methylcobalamin was safe for Jasper.

This is a short description of Jasper's symptoms and treatment, written by Laurie:

Jasper was totally limp and helpless, and I'm sure a lot of people thought I should have put him to sleep. Thank God I didn't, because methylcobalamin gave him back his strength and independence.

I gave Jasper, who weighed 14 pounds, three milligrams of methylcobalamin daily. The tablets were "sublingual" (to be dissolved under the tongue), but as most cats aren't likely to cooperate with that, they can be swallowed like any other pill.

Just 2 weeks after starting on methylcobalamin, Jasper went from being paralyzed -- from his ribs to his back toes -- to standing and walking. A few months later, he was walking long stretches, even jumping on the furniture.

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