Preface

Feline Diabetes

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Editor

This feline diabetes edition was inspired by the many feline patients, their owners, and their veterinarians around the globe who asked questions and challenged the dogma.

In the last 8 years there have been major changes in the way we manage our feline patients, which have resulted in vastly improved outcomes for newly diagnosed diabetic cats. With the advent of long-acting insulin and low-carbohydrate diets, we are achieving outcomes that were not attainable 10 years ago. The next revolution in managing diabetics, I believe, will involve home monitoring and tighter glycemic control.

Successful outcomes rely on committed owners working closely with veterinarians who are up to date with the latest research on the management of diabetes. This issue is a compilation of knowledge from some of the most experienced veterinarians in the world in the area of feline diabetes.

My hope is that this feline diabetes edition will support veterinarians in practice and assist them to help their feline diabetic patients better.

Many thanks to the contributing authors; without their expert knowledge, this edition would not be possible. Thanks also to John Vassallo, editor at Saunders/Elsevier, for his patience and assistance in completing this work.

This edition is dedicated to those who shaped my life:

To my husband Tom, my rock, my greatest supporter, and my sanctuary in stormy seas.

To my dad, who taught me that “if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well,” and that “a job is not done until it is finished.”

To my mum, who was always a cheerful supporter in all the twists and turns in my life.

To my daughter, Lisette, who reminded me when it was time to play, and the importance of having a balanced life.

To the owners, their diabetic pets, veterinarians, and students, who inspired, taught, and challenged me.
And, finally, to Merlin (pictured), our Burmese cat, with a very special personality, who was rescued from the municipal pound and who helped me understand better the effect of high-carbohydrate diets in cats. Merlin was insulin resistant all his adult life and was glucose intolerant and prediabetic for much of his senior years, but thanks to a low-carbohydrate diet and calorie counting, he never developed diabetes. Thank you all and bless you.

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