

HOW TO GIVE SUBCUTANEOUS FLUIDS

To warm the fluids to body temperature:

1. Using an unopened bag:
 - a. Remove the outside protective bag
 - b. Microwave the bag for 2-3 minutes (depending on microwave)
 - c. Massage the warmed bag to distribute the heat evenly.
 - d. Test the bag on your wrist. It should feel comfortably warm, just about body temperature.
2. If the bag has already been used and has the line attached, do not microwave it as the line will melt and seal shut.
 - a. Boil water in a kettle or pot
 - b. Put the bag into a vase or tall upright container with the bulb portion up so it will remain above the water
 - c. Pour the hot water into the vase taking care to not reach the bulb
 - d. Set the timer for about 5 minutes (depends on how much is remaining in used bag)
 - e. Massage the warmed bag to distribute the heat evenly.
 - f. Test the bag on your wrist. It should feel comfortably warm, just about body temperature

To connect a new line to a bag:

1. Prepare the line by rolling the wheel to a closed position
2. Take the cap off the line being careful not to touch the end of the line
3. Remove the end from the port on the bag
4. Insert the pointed end of the IV line into the port
5. Squeeze the bulb of the IV line to fill the bulb half full
6. Open the line by rolling the wheel to the open position and fill the line with fluids

To give your kitty fluids

1. Hang the bag of fluids on a curtain rod or shower rod with the still capped line hanging down
2. Place an unused, covered needle on the line and place the sterile cap (from the end of the line) close by
3. Sit somewhere comfortable. I prefer the floor so that kitty feels secure.
4. If you want, you can wrap your kitty in a towel leaving head and shoulders exposed and cradle him/her
5. Remove the cover on the needle
6. With kitty facing away from you, holding the needle rest your dominant hand on your kitty's back with the needle facing toward his head
7. Lift and make a tent with the skin between kitty's shoulders using your non-dominant hand
8. Exhale and firmly pull that skin tent over the needle
9. Open the IV line wheel and administer the volume of fluids as directed by your doctor
10. Once the needle is in place, because the fluids are warmed, kitty should be comfortable. Giving treats and praise doesn't hurt either!
11. Close the IV line, remove and discard the needle safely recapping the line with the sterile cap
12. Pinch the skin together with your non dominant hand when you remove the needle

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE DONE IT!

Notes:

1. While you are getting used to this procedure, it may help to have the fur shaved over two places at the back of the neck. That way you can be sure the needle is getting under the skin. The fur will grow back.
2. Your kitty will look like she/he is wearing shoulder pads. The fluids will droop to one side down a leg, even to the paw. These will be absorbed over 12-24 hours.
3. If some of the fluids or even a bit of blood leak from the injection site, there is no need to worry.