

Giving Fluids Under the Skin- Care at Home

1. Assemble Your Supplies
2. Find a Cozy Spot
3. Check the Fluid Level
4. Tent the Skin
5. Insert the Needle
6. Unclamp the Fluid Line
7. Watch the Insertion Site
8. Clamp the Fluid Line
9. Remove the Needle

1. Assemble Your Supplies- You will need a bag of Lactated Ringers with a line attached, a new 18 gauge needle, and a treat for after the fluid treatment. Hang the bag of fluids high in a safe spot above your treatment area.
2. Find a Cozy Spot- Look for an area away from other distractions. This should preferably be an area your pet normally likes to sit. A comfortable chair, on the floor in your lap, in a quiet room, or by a windowsill are some examples.
3. Check the Fluid Level- Each number is the equivalent of 100 cc of fluid. If you are giving 100 cc and the bag shows that you are at 3, you should stop giving the fluids at 4.
4. Tent the Skin- Gently "tent" the skin between your pet's shoulder blades. This will form a pocket where the needle will be placed.
5. Insert the Needle- With a firm grip, insert the needle and hold into place. Use a new needle for each treatment. Take care not to puncture the other side of the skin.
6. Unclamp the Fluid Line- With one hand keep the needle in place, with the other hand, unclamp the line by pushing up on the rolling clamp with your thumb.
7. Watch the Insertion Site- If you notice fluid leaking out, you may have gone through the other side of skin. Don't worry, either pull back some or find a new spot and try again. You may notice a bulge where the fluids are building up under the skin. This is normal and will disperse throughout the day . This is a good time to pet your kitty or dog and give lots of praise and love.
8. Clamp the Fluid Line- When you've administered the amount of fluid your doctor has recommended, clamp the line.
9. Remove the Needle- Pull out the needle while gently pinching your cat's skin. A little fluid may leak out. That is okay. Make sure to give a treat afterwards so this becomes a good experience.



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