**SQ Fluids for Cats and Kittens**

If kitty has a fever, use cool or room temp LRS (Lactated Ringers Solution).

If kitty is cold, warm LRS under hot tap water for a few minutes. Shake syringe or bag well and check temp by putting a few drops on the inside of your wrist, like you do for a baby’s bottle.

**HINT:** For both kittens and adults, try having a little yummy food treat ready to distract them. Wet food is good, and formula is even better since it provides nutrition and more fluid.

Have on hand before starting:

For Kittens:

1) Sterile scalp vein set (can be re-used for the same animal up to 2 times)

2) Large sterile syringe. 20-60 mL

3) Sterile 18-gauge needle

4) Bag of Lactated Ringers (LRS)

For Adult Cats:

1. Bag of Lactated Ringers (LRS)
2. Sterile 18-gauge needle
3. IV Tubing

**How to give SQ fluids to a kitten:**

1. Place 18 gauge needle on syringe.
2. Draw up desired amount of LRS into syringe. Warm fluids now if needed.
3. Remove 18g needle from syringe.
4. Put scalp vein set on syringe. Depress syringe slightly to remove air from line.
5. Make a tent on the kitten’s scruff.
6. Insert needle into scruff tent, parallel to spine. Depress syringe. Watch for leakage indicating needle has gone in one side and out the other. If this occurs, pull needle back a little bit and continue.
7. When finished, pinch injection site for a couple of seconds to help the hole close and reduce leakage. Some LRS will still leak out, that’s normal.
8. Kitten weights vs. mls

0.5-0.94lbs. 5-10mls

1-2 lbs. 15-20 mls

3-4 lbs. 60-80 mls

5-8 lbs. 100-120 mls

9-15 lbs. 150-200mls

**HINT:** Continue holding kitten by scruff during procedure and “bounce” kitten up and down gently to distract it. Expect kitten to wiggle and maybe cry; keep going.

**How to give SQ fluids to an adult cat:**

1. Warm LRS bag before starting if needed. Hang LRS bag at least 2-3 feet above kitty.
2. Put new sterile 18 gauge needle on end of IV line.
3. Make a tent in kitty’s scruff, insert needle parallel to spine.
4. Open IV line. Note how much LRS is in bag when you start, so that you’ll know when you’re done!
5. Look at “well” in IV line to see how fast LRS is flowing: if not going very well try moving needle under the skin to improve flow. Careful not to pull needle out.
6. When desired amount of LRS is in kitty, close IV line.
7. Remove needle from kitty’s scruff; pinch injection site to reduce leakage.
8. Replace cap on needle; leave used needle on IV line. (The next time you use it, you will put on a fresh needle.)

Typical amounts for adults are 100-150mls.