



Winston is a 13-year-old black cat who has been a star patient to treat. He came into see us with symptoms of lethargy, slowing down over the last few months and pain. We took a blood sample to rule out any illness. The glucose

level was slightly high, however we often see this as a result of stress in cats. As the vets is one of the most stressful places for a cat to be, and because all the other readings were normal, we put the results down to stress and started him on a pain relief. If there was no improvement we were going to have him in for further work up; we also wanted to recheck his glucose levels to make sure they were stable.

One month later his owner felt he was still not right. He was drinking more, the lethargy had increased and he had started to lose weight. The first test we took was a blood sample to check his glucose; it was very high this time. After ruling out any other illnesses, we diagnosed him as diabetic.

Everyday for a week we had Winston in for the day to monitor his glucose levels through the day and try to stabilise him. Each day we were increasing his insulin dose and the glucose was slowly starting to come down but not enough to be safe. The next step was to change his food to one specially made for diabetic patients. It is formulated to sustain and release carbohydrates throughout the day especially after eating, therefore reducing fluctuations of blood sugar levels. After changing his food we found his glucose did come down enough that we didn't need to see him every day. His owner had him at home and was testing the glucose reading in his urine as a way of monitoring his condition.

He did well for a while at home but his owner started to notice that he was having wobbly turns and that the glucose urine reading was high in the evenings. Following another

consultation with the vet we realised that Winston wasn't the usual textbook diabetic case. Cats usually require insulin once daily but Winston had to be changed onto twice daily dosing.

He spent another few days with us whilst we found the correct dose for him and he was doing much better again. His owner has been monitoring him at home and keeping him on the special food, which has really helped his recovery.

The vet had requested to do a spot check on his blood glucose levels in a month's time if all was going well until then. A month later his glucose had come right down and his insulin dose was lowered. Another month went by and again his dose was lowered. He then came in every two weeks for a spot test as we worried that as the insulin was lowered his sugar levels would rise again. But they didn't. We continued to lower his dose each visit and he is now on just 0.5 units twice daily. We hope that at his next visit we will be able to take him off insulin altogether-we will let you know how he gets on.

Winston is our pet of the month not only because it's a great outcome but also he has been such a good patient. He would come in and lie on the table, let us take blood, give him injections, keep him in all day and he wouldn't be bothered at all and if you tickled him under his ears he would start to purr. His owner has followed everything as guided by the vet that has been the key to his recovery. When the vet is finished the consultation and Winston has been good (he was never anything other than good!) his owner would give him his favourite scoop cuddle and tickle his tummy. We are all so proud of him!