

## SQ Fluids Home Care Sheet

**Supplies:** -Lactated Ringers Solution (LRS) 1 litre bag  
-IV drip set 10 drops/ml  
-Needles 18G (pink) or 20G (yellow)

**Best to call first to make sure we have all supplies in stock and we can set it aside for you to pick up at your earliest convenience.**

### **Your Pet's Dose:**

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#### **Setting up the Bag**

- Take the outer plastic off the liter bag as well as the IV drip set.
- Then tip the liter bag upside down so that the ports are on top.
- Remove the plastic tag on the one port. Remove the plastic cap on the IV drip set on the pointy end.
- Insert the pointy end of drip set into the port you just took the tag off.
- Clamp the dark blue clamp by pushing it so that there is a kink in the IV drip set line.
- Turn the liter bag to the upright position and squeeze the drip set chamber so that the fluid comes in no higher than the "T" on the side of the chamber. This will allow you to see that the fluids are flowing.
- Placing the end of the drip set over the sink, unclamp the dark blue clamp so that the fluid flows to fill the line. Make sure there are no air bubbles. This is called priming the line.
- To place a needle on the end, take out the needle as sterile as possible and take cap off IV drip set line. Attach the needle and secure it in place with the clear clamp.
- Now the bag is ready for use. **Use a new needle every time.**

#### **Administering the SQ Fluids**

- This may take 2 people at first, one to restrain and one to administer the fluids. Over time your pet may get used to the routine and it may become easier to administer the fluids with only 1 person.
- Once your pet is safely restrained with either someone holding on lap or in a carrier, lift the scruff of your pet so that you have a skin tent. The bigger the skin tent the better as this will allow the volume of fluid to be administered easier.
- Once you lift the scruff, place your finger parallel to the spine so that you can feel where the needle will be placed. When ready, un-cap needle and insert needle into your pet. Unclamp the line so that the fluids are flowing.

- The other person can hold the bag of fluids high, gravity is your friend. Hanging on a hanger from the roof is helpful too if you are doing this alone. Squeezing the bag will also speed up the process.
- If the fluids are not flowing:
  - Check to make sure all clamps are open.
  - Lift the bag higher or squeeze.
  - You may have to adjust needle as the bevel of the needle could be blocked by the skin, rotate it a bit to see if that flows better.
- Allow the fluid to drip till your pet has received the total volume your Veterinarian has prescribed. If the lump that the fluids are making gets firm to the touch you should split the volume into two separate areas to keep your pet comfortable.
- Once the volume has been administered, clamp the light blue clamp so that the fluids stop flowing. Squeeze the skin around the needle and remove the needle holding the skin for a few seconds to seal the hole that the needle made. If a few drops fall out just clean them up and hold for a bit longer.
- Place cap back on needle. You can now either leave the used needle on or replace it with a new needle just as long as you use a new needle every time.
- Place used needles in a hard plastic container (i.e.: pop bottle) or tin can and bring back to clinic for disposal.