



Ear Sampling 1 & 2

Ear Sampling is an easy technique and provides adequate blood samples for glucometers that are currently available on the market. Regular lancing devices or needles can be used to puncture the skin. Thanks to Dr. Sylvie Daminet and Dr. Patricia Dorval (respectively, teacher and intern at University of Montreal in St-Hyacinthe) who performed this work on the technique. (from Interconnect Spring 2000)

1- Glucometers require only a small drop of blood and the marginal vein of the ear can easily be used for its collection.

2- The vein is easy to see in pale animals, but warming of the ear or removal of hair may be required to make it more obvious in dark haired cats. Sampling should be done from the tip to base of the ear to facilitate multiple samplings.



Ear Sampling 3 & 4

3- Lay the ear on a tape roll to facilitate the process. Do not wipe the ear with alcohol.

4- Place the lancing device on the vein and puncture the skin.



Ear Sampling 5 & 6

5- A drop of blood will appear. (Wiping the ear with alcohol will cause the blood to spread instead of forming a drop.)

6- Pick up the drop of blood with the stick. Petroleum jelly mixed with heparin can be used to cover the wound. Removing the drop will allow a second one to form, thus avoiding another puncture.



Ear Sampling 7 & 8

7- Glycemia value will appear quickly
(this cat does not seem too stressed!)

8- The ear sampling technique can be used routinely on dogs and cat. When glucose curves are necessary, this almost stress-free method (for the pet and the veterinarian) will help to better manage patients by avoiding intensive handling.

You may notice that the number on the glucometer in the photo is extremely low. This photo was taken in Canada, where they use a different system of reporting glucose levels that gives a much lower number. The cat in the picture has a normal glucose level, around 100 mg/dl in our system of reporting glucose levels.