



**Animal  
Adoption**

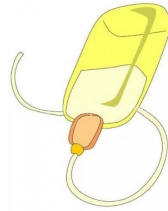


**Veterinary  
Center**

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## Subcutaneous Fluid (SQ) Administration



Dogs and cats possess a large area under their skin called the *subcutaneous* space. This space allows the convenient administration of fluids and medicines that is not possible in human beings. One of the most common uses of subcutaneous fluids is to provide extra fluids to cats and dogs with kidney disease. With practice, this is a technique that can be performed by many pet owners either by themselves or with the help of a housemate.

*There are many videos available on the internet that demonstrate SQ fluids. One of the best sources is you tube; type subcutaneous fluids into the search requirement and choose from many different videos.*

1. Fluid sets are generally dispensed already assembled and consist of a fluid bag, line, and 18 gauge needles. Although fluids are not painful, they can be uncomfortable for the pet if they are cold. Prior to administration, the bag may be placed in a sink of warm water for a few minutes to mildly heat the fluids. If you are doing this, **make sure to test the fluids on your skin first.**
2. Your pet may be offered a bowl of food or treat while fluids are given to distract them during the process. Tent the skin above the shoulders and pierce the skin quickly with the needle. The fluids should either be hung or held 1-2 feet above the animal so gravity will ensure proper flow.
3. When the needle is in the skin, open either the roller or the green clasp and let the fluids flow. If you start the fluids and they are leaking out, you may have gone all the way through the skin; at this point, pull the needle back slightly and see if leaking stops. The bag may be squeezed to quicken the flow of the fluids into the skin.
4. When the proper amount has been given, reclose either the roller or green clasp and pull out the needle. The skin may be gently rubbed at the puncture site to further prevent leakage.