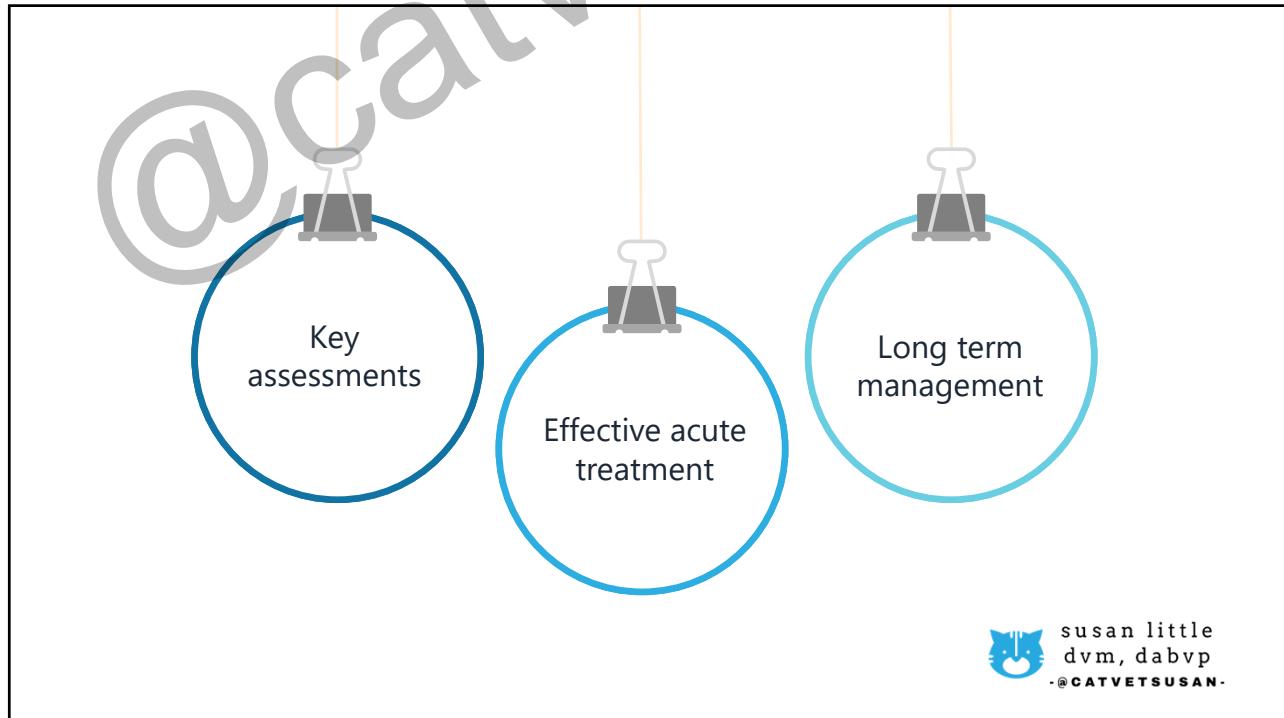


Assessment & management of constipation in cats

Susan Little, DVM, DABVP (Feline)
Bytown Cat Hospital, Ottawa, ON, Canada
@catvetsusan
catvet@vin.com



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Constipation



- Infrequent & difficult evacuation of feces with retention in colon & rectum
- Acute & short term or chronic

Terminology

Megacolon



- Intractable constipation
- Poorly responsive to medical therapy



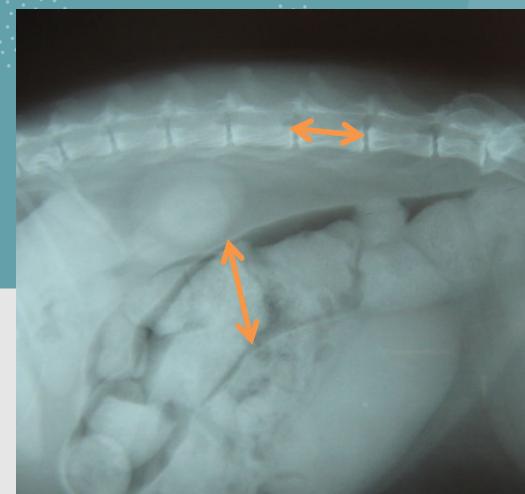
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Radiographic definition of megacolon

Ratio of colon diameter to L5 length

- Normal <1.3
- Megacolon >1.5



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Functional definition of megacolon

- Acute dilation that responds to therapy
- Chronically dilated colon, **poorly responsive**
- Causes?
 - Recurrent constipation, obstipation
 - Generalized dysfunction of colonic smooth muscle



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Colon motility patterns

Propulsive

- Stimulated by food & activity

Non-propulsive

- Rhythmic segmentation that mixes contents
- Absorption of water, electrolytes

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The work up

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Look for contributing factors

- Antacids
- Opioids
- Antidepressants
- Diuretics
- Opioids
- Sucralfate

- Underlying disease
- Vomiting, diarrhea
- Impaired mobility, pain

- Resource-poor environment
- Intercat conflict
- Changes in routine

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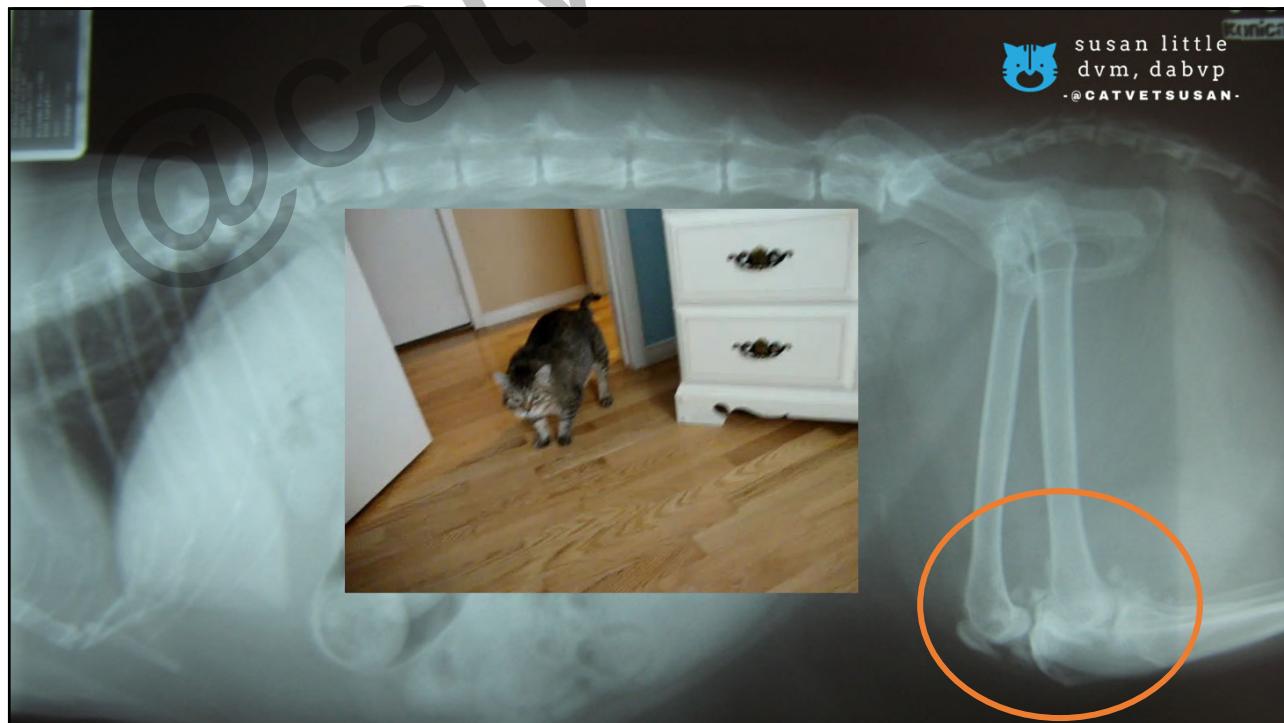
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Chronic kidney disease

- Dehydration
- Hypokalemia
- Reduced gastrointestinal motility
- Phosphate binders
- Amlodipine



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01

Everyone's favourite – the enema

02

Manual disimpaction – oh no!

03

There is a better way

De-pooping the cat



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Patient prep



Correct dehydration
& hypokalemia

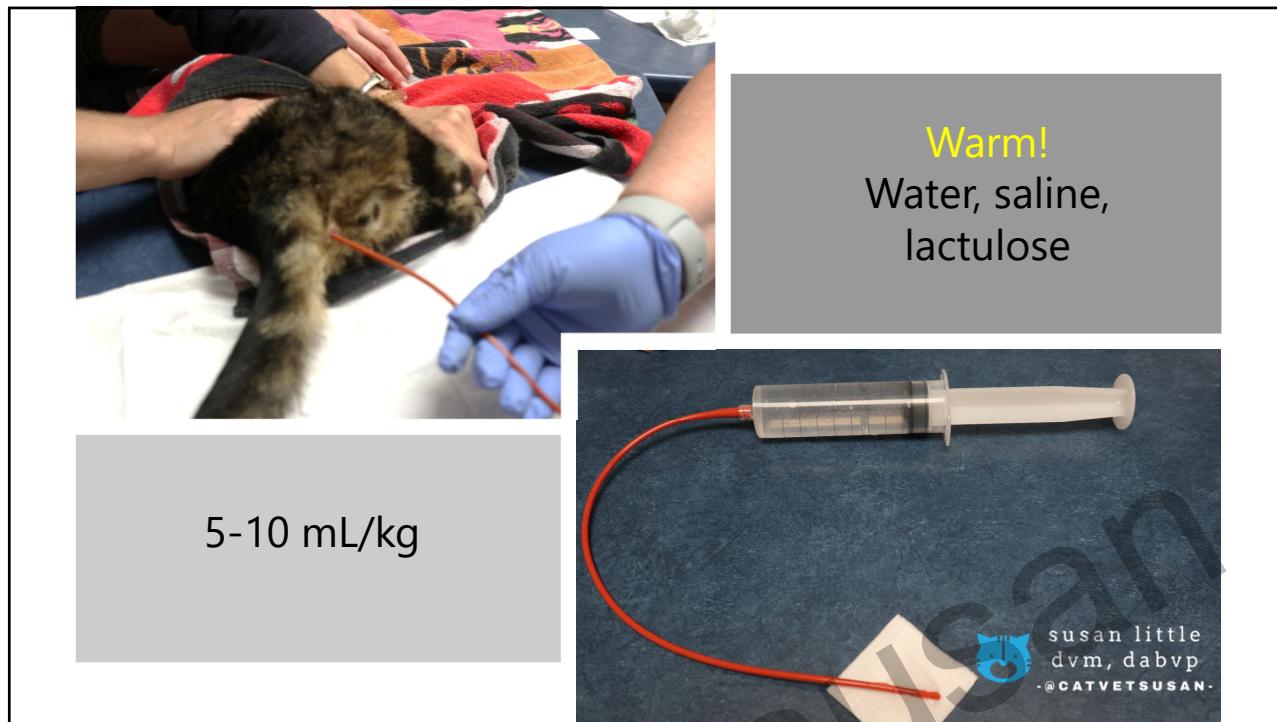


Anti-emetic
Analgesic



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Manual disimpaction (why is it always when you're ready to leave??)



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The Australian native produces up to 100 cube-shaped poops a night

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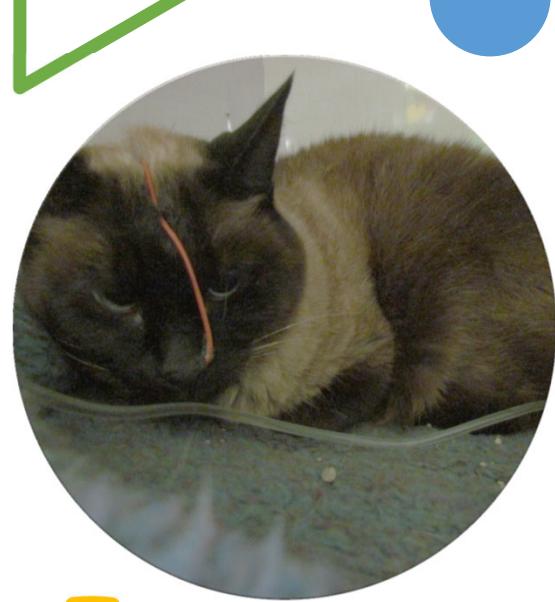
A better way!



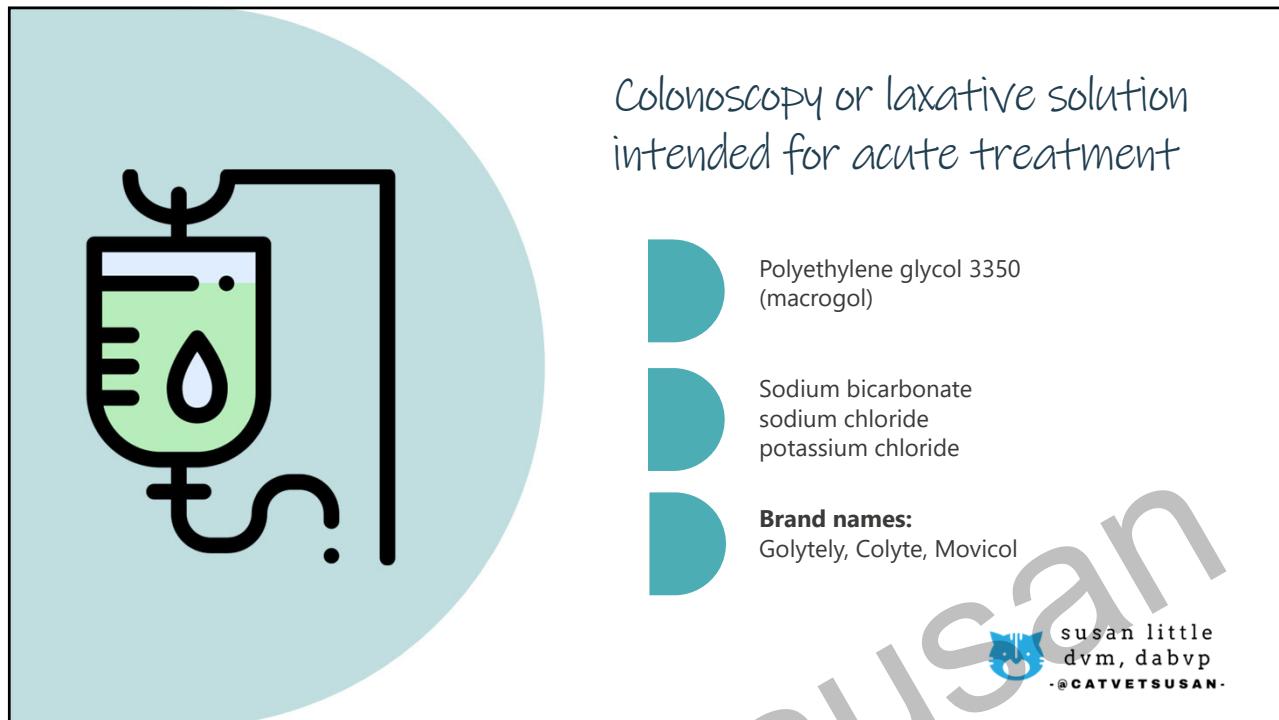
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Laxative trickle-feeding

Dr. Tony Carr
Western College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan

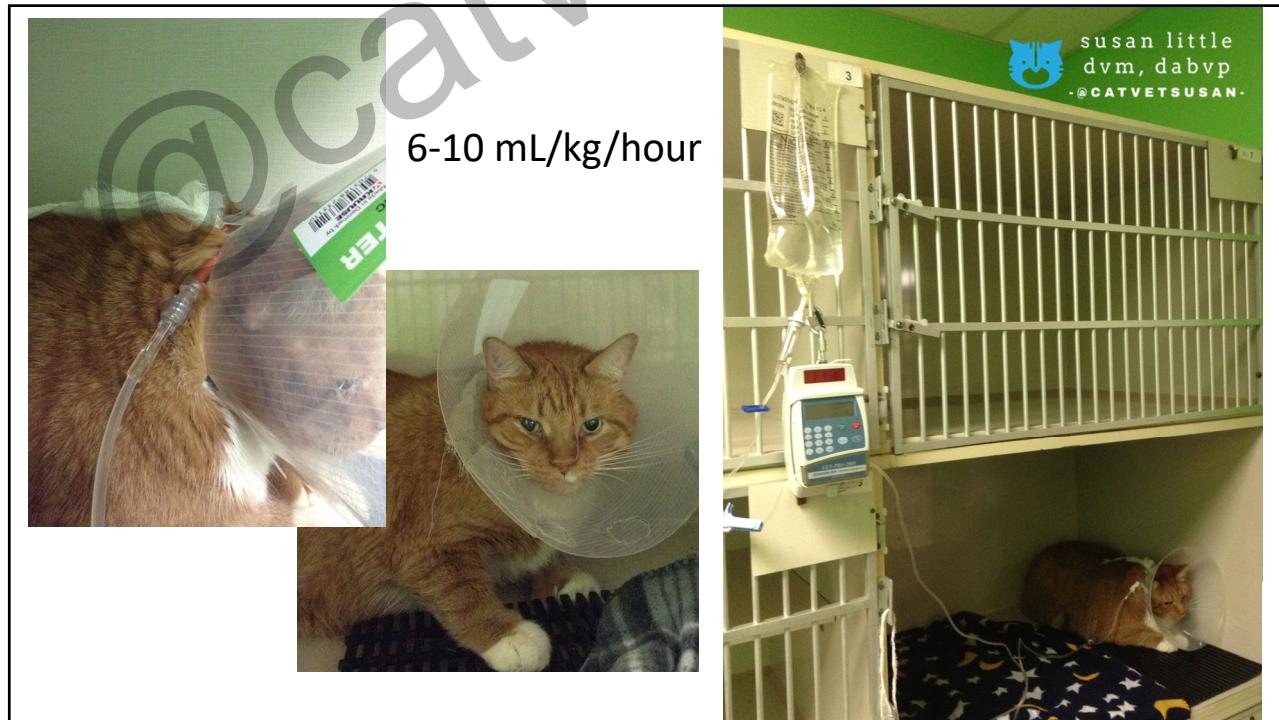


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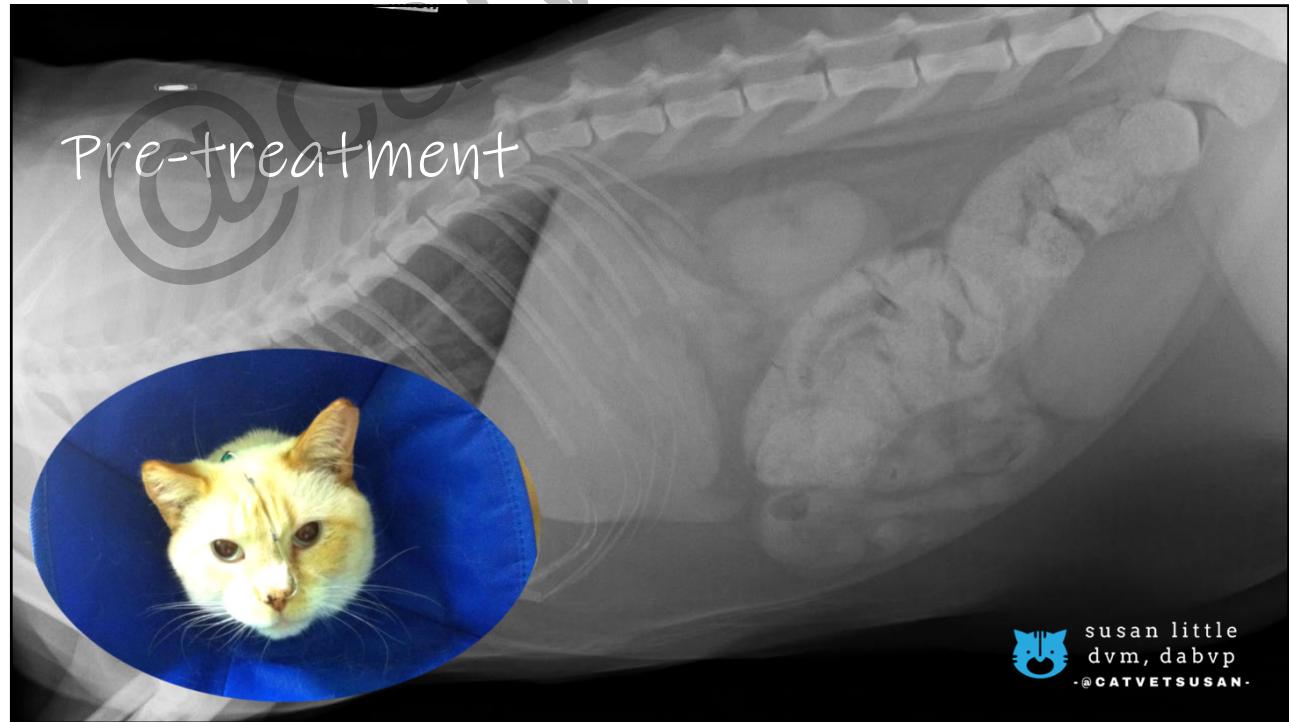


Defecation in median 8 hours
(range 6-14)
Median total dose 80 mL/kg



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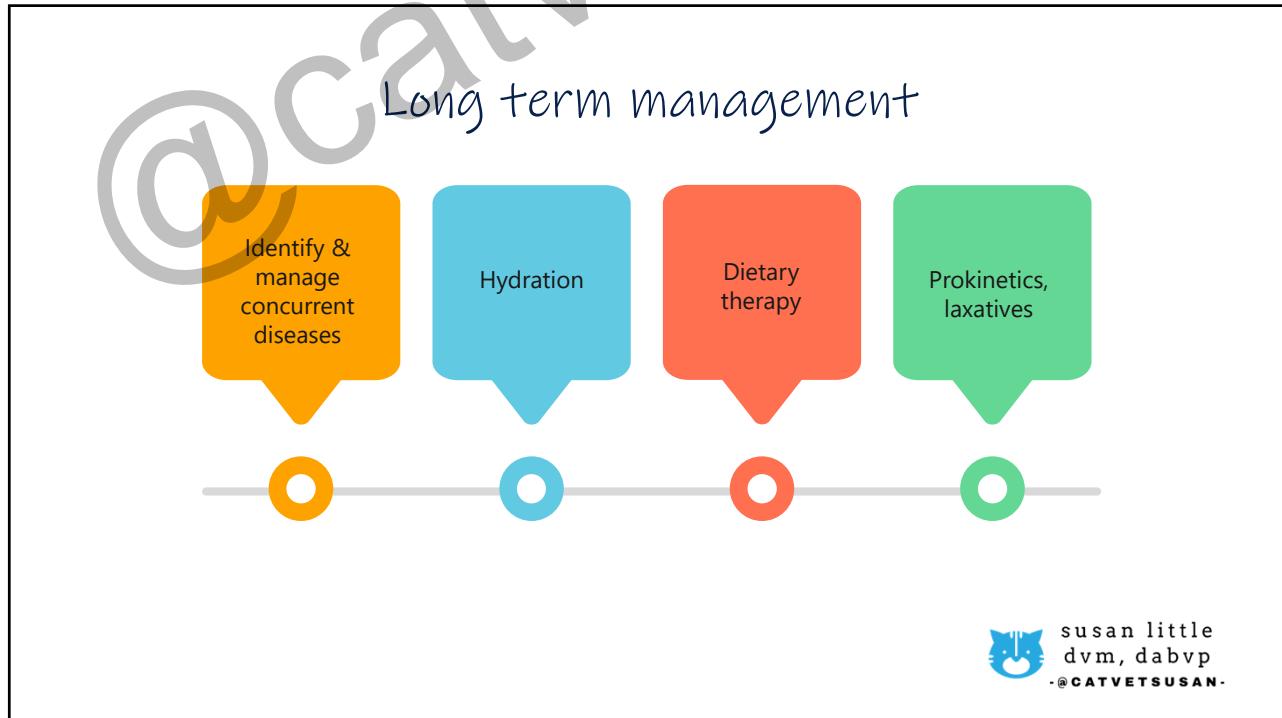
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Hydration

- Wet food
- Flavoured water
- Bottled/filtered water
- More water bowls
- Subcutaneous fluids if appropriate



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Dietary therapy

Type of diet	Characteristics	Examples
Low residue	Highly digestible Decreased fecal bulk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Feline • Royal Canin Feline Gastrointestinal Fiber Response • Hill's Prescription Diet w/d Feline or r/d Feline
Increased fiber	Soluble & insoluble fiber: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased fecal bulk & water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Gastrointestinal Biome Digestive/Fiber Care
Modulation of microbiome	Soluble & insoluble fibre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased fecal bulk & water Specific prebiotics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased postbiotics that improve motility, provide energy, anti-oxidant & anti-inflammatory effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Gastrointestinal Biome Digestive/Fiber Care

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When dietary therapy isn't enough

01

Add a laxative

- Lactulose
- PEG3350 (macrogol) without electrolytes

02

Add a drug

- Cisapride
- Metabolized in liver by cytochrome P450



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Top tips for managing constipated cats

Identify

Underlying factors,
concurrent diseases



Provide

Effective acute
management

Evaluate

Hydration,
electrolytes

Radiograph

GI obstruction,
masses, pelvic
fracture, colon size

Recommend

Dietary therapy for
long term
management

Add

Laxatives, drugs if
needed



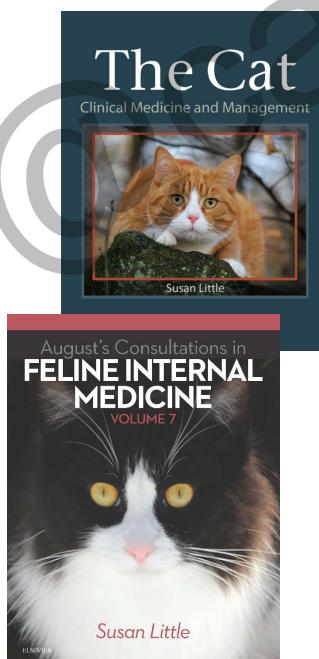
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