Subcutaneous Catheter Set
For Veterinary Use Only

Description
The Subcutaneous Catheter Set consists of a sterile polyurethane catheter with multiple fenestrations, a catheter introducer, and two short stylets with caps. See individual package label for product specifications.

Function
The Subcutaneous Catheter Set can be used in patients that require frequent fluid therapy or subcutaneous medication administration. It can be used short or long term (a product equivalent is FDA cleared in humans for up to 1 year). The Subcutaneous Catheter Set is intended for placement under the skin only; it is not intended for venous use.

Instructions for Use
1. Inspect packaging for sterility. Remove product from package and visually inspect for any damage.

WARNING! Discard if product or packaging is damaged.

2. Place the patient under a short-acting anesthetic.

3. Clip and prep a 5cm square on the dorsum of the lower neck/upper back (typically between the scapulas).

4. Make a 5mm longitudinal skin incision in the center of the prepared area.

5. Pass the distal tip of the catheter subcutaneously directed caudally and 1 to 2cm to one side of the dorsal mid-line.

6. Remove the catheter introducer.

7. Secure the catheter adapter to the skin using a soft non-dissolvable suture. One or two sutures are placed through each hole in the wings. Several other sutures may also be placed to further anchor the catheter. A ‘purse string’ suture is placed around the proximal end of the catheter. Additional sutures are used to anchor the body of the adapter to the skin.

NOTE! It is important to use soft, non-dissolvable suture material.

8. Insert the short stylet with cap into the catheter after placement (two are included) and lock in place. This stylet maintains rigidity at the proximal end of the device, making it difficult for the patient to dislodge the catheter. Send both stylets home with the client to allow for exchange between administration of fluids or medication.

9. To prevent infection, a broad spectrum antibiotic should be administered approximately 48 hours following catheter placement. This antibiotic can be taken orally or an injectable antibiotic can be administered through the catheter.

10. When using the catheter for medications, in order to achieve optimal dispersion throughout the catheter, add approximately 2ml of the chosen subcutaneous fluid to the calculated dose of medication.

11. The body will perceive the catheter as a foreign object and fibrin may plug the catheter. It is suggested that Heparin/Saline solution be used to reduce the change of this occurring. It is recommended that the catheter be flushed according to standard hospital protocol.

WARNING! The Heparin/Saline solution should be stored and disposed of according to the drug manufacturer’s instructions.

12. It is important that the first fluid treatment not be painful to the patient, or it will likely object to further treatments. If possible, do not give the first dose of fluids for approximately 48 hours post-op. The subcutaneous tissue may be somewhat tender from the insertion process. This 48 hours delay permits the soreness to diminish.

WARNING! Failure to properly immobilize the patient during the procedure may result in serious injury and/or death.

WARNING! Follow local governing ordinances regarding disposal of sharps and biohazardous wastes.