

# Jersey



## Where She Came From

Jersey was a last-minute birthday present to myself in 2007. I wanted a "fluff fluff" and picked Jersey out of a litter of barn kittens.

## Birthdate

Jersey was born on September 4, 2007.

## Diagnosis

We noticed Jersey was drinking a lot of water and urinating frequently in November 2013. She was diagnosed with diabetes on November 26, 2013. She had been free-fed Meow Mix dry food for years.

## Insulin

The veterinarian put Jersey on Hill's w/d dry food to control her blood glucose. It didn't work.....

We were finally prescribed Humulin-N in January 2014. The vet wanted us to give 2 units once a day. We started at 1 unit and worked down to .25 units.

It was during this time period that we joined FDMB, started home testing,

switched Jersey's diet, and found a veterinarian who would prescribe Lantus.

Jersey was started on .10 unit of Lantus on February 15th, 2014. We had to increase the dose to 1.0 unit before Jersey started working her way back down the dosing scale.

### Home Testing

We use the Relion Micro to test blood glucose levels at home.

### Food

Jersey was switched to Wellness Core canned food on January 12, 2014. She soon tired of that, and we have tried a variety of low-carb canned foods since that time. Her current rotation includes the following:

- ☐ Fancy Feast Classic Chicken
- ☐ Fancy Feast Classic Turkey & Giblets
- ☐ Fancy Feast Classic Beef
- ☐ Fancy Feast Classic Liver & Chicken
- ☐ Fancy Feast Classic Beef & Chicken
- ☐ EZComplete homemade food (mainly chicken thighs)

### Remission

As previously noted, Jersey began Lantus on February 15, 2014. She went into remission approximately 2 months later. Her last insulin shot was given on April 11, 2014. She is now a diet-controlled diabetic, and we continue to check her blood sugar levels regularly.

### A Tragic Loss

In 2003, our precious cat, Bugs, was diagnosed with diabetes. Bugsy was 7 years old at the time of diagnosis. He received 2 insulin shots a day. At the time, we knew nothing about feline diabetes, home testing, etc. All we knew was that Bugsy appeared to be well-controlled. In 2004, Bugsy was boarded at the veterinarian's office while my husband and I attended a work conference out of town. Upon our return, we found out that Bugs had passed away at the vet's office just 3 hours before we were supposed to pick him up. We believe that Bugsy was probably stressed, not eating much, and had a hypoglycemic episode. The vet did not test his blood sugar levels before or after giving insulin.

This tragic experience greatly impacted my approach to Jersey's treatment. There were many times I skipped shots (both with Humulin-N and Lantus) because I could not be home to monitor her and was terrified I would lose her in the same way I had lost Bugs.

### The Civvies

Jersey's indoor "siblings" include:

- Pete (aka Petey-Fur): Petey came to us in 2004 after Bugsy passed away.



- Chappy (aka Chap-Chap): Chappy joined the family in August 2008. I happened to be talking to a former student of mine, and she told me her cat had recently had a litter of kittens. When I found out that one of those kittens was solid white, I told her I wanted him (sight unseen). She brought him to my workplace the next day. Although I have owned and loved many cats throughout my life, Chappy is my kitty "soul mate." I have a special bond with him that is unlike any other bond I have ever experienced. [Chappy left our lives on October 15, 2015. We miss you more than words can say, buddy.]



Jersey's indoor/outdoor "siblings" include:

- Rabbit (aka Bitty-Kitty): Rabbit was adopted from the Humane Society in December 2013.
- Nona (aka No-Name): Along with Rabbit, Nona was adopted from the Humane Society in December 2013.

These girls actually adopted me. I went to the Humane Society two days before Christmas to give a new kitty a home. As soon as I sat down on the floor of the cat room, Rabbit came over, curled up in my lap, and went to sleep. Nona joined us just moments later.



- Minnie (aka "Minner," which is my Southern husband's way of

pronouncing “minnow”): Minnie was adopted from the Humane Society on July 3rd, 2014. I had received very depressing news from the doctor’s office that day. I tried sending my husband to the pet store to pick up cat litter. Not wanting to leave me home alone to wallow in self-pity, my husband refused to go to the store without me. As we walked through the pet store, we walked past the cages of the cats up for adoption from the Humane Society. Minnie’s cage door was open, and she practically jumped into my arms as we walked by. We lost Minnie in May 2016.



Jersey’s “non-siblings” include:

- Curly, a basset hound: Curly left us on September 27, 2016.
- Chloe, a Humane Society mixed-breed dog
- Bailey, another Humane Society mixed-breed dog
- Lucy, pygmy goat
- Baker, Maizy, Spot, Stripe, Skunky, & Pepper; chickens

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