

BG Meter Comparisons: Pros and Cons for Caregivers

Getting ready to hometest? Need to know which meter is the best fit for you and your kitty? This is the document for you! Ellen and Kismet have tried the 3 most common glucometers recommended for sugarcats and share their experiences here. If you're not sure about hometesting yet, read the [FDMB FAQ](#), Ellen and Kis' [From Practice to Purrfection](#) and Gorb's [hometesting primer](#). Make sure to visit Ellen and Kis's [site](#) for this doc and more!

There are 3 models of glucometers that are generally recommended for hometesting. Each has it's own unique characteristics, but in my opinion, all three are good choices because they are reasonably accurate in the higher blood glucose ranges commonly associated with feline diabetes and they use "sipping" test strips. Kis and I have used all three at some point and have found that each has it's own set of pros and cons. Below is a list of what I have noticed regarding each model.

Bayer Ascensia/Glucometer Elite and Elite XL



PROs

- 1) Fairly accurate in the higher blood glucose ranges (see side-by-side tests [here](#))
- 2) Uses "sipping" test strips (capillary action built right into the strip)
- 3) Test strips sip VERY quickly compared to some brands
- 4) Test strip only requires a small sample of blood - about 2 microliters
- 5) Test strips available at a reasonable price (see www.hocks.com)
- 6) Bayer Customer Service is top notch

CONs

- 1) Gives a falsely low reading on an incompletely -filled test strip, however the strip is in full view as you "sip" up the sample, making it easy to see when it is filled completely (see pics [here](#))
- 2) Takes 30 seconds to determine the test result (not a big issue for most, but it is much slower than the One Touch Ultra and thus worth mentioning).
- 3) The glucometer kit comes with a lancet device that is difficult to use with cats (awkward to hold for some)

AccuCheck Advantage (using "Comfort Curve" Test Strips)



PROs

- 1) Meter is fairly accurate in the higher blood glucose ranges (see side-by-side tests [here](#))
- 2) Uses "Comfort Curve" Test strips which "sip" up a sample (capillary action)
- 3) Warns you of an "incomplete fill" and gives you a second chance to add more blood before providing a reading.
- 4) Test strips can be found at a reasonable price (see www.hocks.com)
- 5) The Glucometer Kit comes with "pen-style" lancet device that is good for hometesting cats

CONs

- 1) Requires slightly more blood than the Elite/XL or One Touch Ultra for a reading - around 3 microliters (however, it is still a very small amount)
- 2) Test strips are inserted in the bottom of the meter, requiring you to invert the meter for "sipping" the sample and then turn it upright to read the display, (not an issue for most but a noticeable difference compared to the top loading meters like Elite/XL and One Touch Ultra)

One Touch Ultra



PROs

- 1) Fairly accurate in the higher blood glucose ranges (see side-by-side tests [here](#))
- 2) Uses "sipping" test strips (capillary action built right into the strip)
- 3) Will not give a falsely low reading on an incomplete fill
- 4) Requires the smallest amount of blood of the three meters - around 1 microliter
- 5) Has all the test strip codes stored in memory - no need to keep up with "coding strips" or "coding modules"
- 6) Fastest meter of the three on providing results - about 5 seconds
- 7) Glucometer kit comes with "pen-style" lancet device that is easy to use for homesting cats

CONs

- 1) Strips are generally more expensive compared to the two other meter (haven't found them for less than ~ \$30.00 for 50 strips)