

Quick Tips – From the ER

Permethrin Toxicity in Cats

Permethrin is a third generation pyrethroid only labeled for use in dogs. Cats are more sensitive than dogs to pyrethroids because they cannot effectively clear this chemical by hepatic glucuronidation. Permethrin toxicity in cats typically occurs when owners inadvertently apply a dog product to their cat, or the cat grooms a recently treated dog. Onset of signs of toxicity (hypersalivation, depression, tremors, ataxia, vomiting, seizures) occurs within 1-24 hours and may vary considerably among individuals. Treatment with injectable methocarbamol (50-150 mg/kg slow IV) is used to address marked tremors. More aggressive treatment is needed for seizures. Diazepam alone may exacerbate tremors and atropine is not indicated for permethrin exposure. IV fluid therapy reduces the risk of renal insult from rhabdomyolysis and treats hyperthermia. Dawn dishwashing soap is used to remove the product from the haircoat. Complications can include DIC, renal failure, and death.

*We hope you found this information helpful,
The team of PESCM*



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