

Prevention of permethrin poisoning

- Never use a flea treatment on your cat that is intended for use only on dogs.
- Consult your vet for advice on the treatment of fleas.
- Read the instructions on any flea treatment before use.
- If you have applied a permethrin spot-on in error and your cat is well, wash the area thoroughly with shampoo (if possible) and contact Animal PoisonLine immediately.
- If you also have a dog that needs treatment for fleas, contact your vet for advice on using a flea treatment that is also safe for cats.

What to do if you think your pet has been poisoned

EMERGENCY ADVICE

- Call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000 **even if your pet is showing no signs** to find out whether a trip to the vet is required.
- Remove your pet from the source of poison.
- Do not try to make your pet vomit – **NEVER** give salt water.
- Collect the poison and take a sample/ container with you if you are advised to take your pet to the vet practice.



www.animalpoisonline.co.uk
24 hours a day (charges apply)

COVER PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN GRESSELIN - FLICKR



Animal PoisonLine is run by the VPIS, the UK's only animal poison centre, which has provided advice to vets on the management of poisoning in animals for over 25 years.



PERMETHRIN POISONING IN CATS



PHOTO BY KAT MASBACK - FLICKR



What is permethrin?

Permethrin is an insecticide used in household and veterinary products to control insect pests.

Cats are very sensitive to permethrin as they are unable to metabolize or eliminate it from the body.

Sources of permethrin

One of the most common ways cats are poisoned with permethrin is from the exposure to flea spot-on products intended for use in dogs. Exposure in cats can occur from using such products directly on a cat or from secondary exposure. This can occur when a cat is exposed during contact with a treated dog as they may lick or groom the product off the dog.

Although the volume in these products is small they contain a high concentration of permethrin.

What are the signs of permethrin poisoning?

Exposure either through skin contact or from ingestion of a permethrin-containing product may result in toxicity in a cat.

It may take a few hours or longer before signs of toxicity become apparent.

The clinical signs of permethrin poisoning can include:

- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Incoordination
- Hyperexcitability
- Tremor
- Twitching
- Convulsions
- Increased body temperature

What to do if your cat has been exposed to permethrin

- If your cat has ingested permethrin or had a permethrin product applied to the skin - contact Animal PoisonLine who will advise you whether you need to take your cat to the vet.
- If you are advised to visit the vet, there are many treatments that could be given depending on the signs your cat is showing.
- Your vet may need to call the Veterinary Poisons Information Service for appropriate treatment advice.
- Treatments may include one or more of the following:
 - Cooling measures
 - Washing the skin
 - Drugs to control drooling and convulsions
 - Lipid therapy

Outcome of permethrin poisoning

The outcome may be good if treatment is prompt, however cats can die from permethrin poisoning.

