

ROSEMULLION VETERINARY PRACTICE LTD



HELENA WHITE BVETMED GPCERTSAS MRCVS

Has 6 years experience in both small and large animal veterinary practice in Cornwall and New Zealand

DANGERS OF TRYING TO SAVE MONEY AND USING THE WRONG PRODUCT

Last weekend we had a pair of kittens brought to the practice who were very unwell. They were having almost constant fits and were clearly very distressed, in turn this made their owners very worried. It turned out that they had both been given a flea treatment that can be bought without a prescription from a supermarket. Fortunately, the owners recognized that they had mistakenly put a dog “spot on” flea treatment on their kittens and brought them to us within an hour or two, otherwise they would almost certainly be dead now.

Over the last two months we have seen this 6 times and these two kittens are the only ones to have survived. Even though we started treating them within an hour or two of the flea treatment it was a very close run thing.

The problem with the treatment they were given (and many other non-prescription flea treatments) is the active ingredient in the dog spot on - Permethrin. This is ok for dogs but a killer for cats; it works upon the nervous system of the flea but disastrously can also do the same in cats. You don't even have to put it on the cat; if you put it on the dog you should keep you dog away from the cat for 24 hours just in case. All vets understand the need to try and balance the care of your pet with affordability especially in these current times of economic hardship, but sometimes going for the cheaper option may not save you anything in the long run. I hope you can see the need to follow your vet's advice and we recommend a number of

prescription treatments depending on the individual animal's circumstances. These recommendations come from research and experience for what we believe is best for your pet. Fortunately for the cats, Sparky and Florence, the duty vet Dean Worth knew exactly what needed to be done. He immediately sedated them to a level of induced coma and then bathed in lukewarm water and detergent. The temperature is important for if it is too warm the blood vessels in the skin expand and speed up the absorption of the poison. Over time the cats were repeatedly brought back to consciousness, and if they were still fitting the coma was induced again. For Sparky and Florence this was done 4 times and IV fluids were used also whilst they were in this induced coma. Thankfully on the 1st November after several days of 24 hour nursing in the hospital we were able to return the cats to their owners

“We had no idea that our simple mistake could put our cats at such risk; thank heavens for Dean and Helena and the wonderful nurses at Rosemullion. Without the care that the nurse (Beverly Eddy RVN) gave all night, we would probably have lost our two cats, we will be more careful from now on!”

Please take care when using flea treatments – make sure you read the instructions properly, if you are not sure; ring your veterinary surgery and talk to a nurse who will be happy to advise you.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

For more information about the case referred to above please ask for:
Dean Worth or Helena White at Rosemullion Veterinary Practice Ltd
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or

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