



Inhalation therapy for cats

Inhalation therapy is now being used more frequently for cats with chronic lower airway disease, such as asthma. This is a guide as to what you need and how to use inhaled medications.

Equipment:

Beclomethasone inhaler 100micrograms/metered actuation OR

Fluticasone (Flixotide) inhaler 50 micrograms/metered actuation AND/OR

Salbutamol (Ventolin Evohaler) aerosol inhalation 100 micrograms/metered actuation

Aerokat inhaler and mask

Initial Dose (unless advised otherwise by your vet)

Beclomethasone 1 actuation (pump) twice daily initially, then reduce according to symptoms

Fluticasone 1 or 2 actuations twice daily initially, then reduce following advice of your vet

Salbutamol 1 actuation every 4-6hrs if needed for bronchospasm relief i.e. during an attack.

Technique:

- Make sure the inhaler is clean and dry.
- Place the mask onto the Aerokat spacer and inhaler into the other end of spacer.
- Hold your cats mouth closed and gently place the device over their nostrils, allowing breathing via the spacer.
- When breathing is calm and steady, initiate dose by pressing inhaler for required number of actuations.
- Allow 30 seconds of breathing to inhale the dose from spacer, or count 10 breaths using the coloured flutter valve at the neck of the spacer.
- Rest for 30 seconds, then repeat for second dose if necessary.

- Some cats cope better if the inhaler is actuated into the spacer before placing over the cats nose as they dislike the sound of the inhaler discharging a dose.

Acclimatisation:

A period of acclimatisation may be necessary before this procedure is tolerated. Start by just introducing the mask to the patient, placing it on their body, and progressing to placing it on their head in a gentle manner, so they learn not to be afraid of the device. At the same time let them see and get used to the presence of the spacer and the inhaler. Initially from a distance, then moving closer, actuate the inhaler so that they become used to the noise associated with this. This process should last a few days. When they appear comfortable with the mask, place it over the nose/mouth so they get used to breathing through it. Then add the spacer and repeat. Once they are comfortable breathing through these, try adding the inhaler and initiate dosing.

Good websites for more information are: www.aerokat.com and www.breatheazy.co.uk