



Feline Forum

Courtesy of:

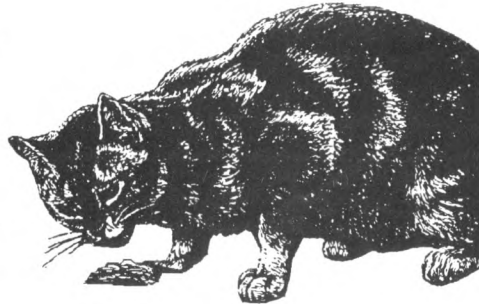
Rat Poisons Can Harm Cats

Chemical warfare against rodents is a common practice by many homeowners trying to rid their premises of mice, rats, or other rodents. Although rodenticides (rodent poisons) are effective eliminators of pests, they can also be hazardous to pets.

Most of the rodenticides marketed today use anticoagulant (blood clotting inhibitor) chemicals or cholecalciferol (vitamin D₃). Rodenticides are formulated for use as toxic baits or tracking powders. Secondary poisoning can occur when the cat catches and consumes a poisoned rodent. Fortunately, secondary poisoning is not as hazardous because the poison is at a reduced level of toxicity.

The tracking powders are more of a direct threat to cats, especially if the powders are placed in an area which is frequented by cats. The powders adhere to the feet and fur of both rodents and cats, and the poisons are then voluntarily ingested when the animal grooms itself.

If you observe your cat ingesting rodenticide tracking powders, induce vomiting immediately with 1/2 teaspoon of ipecac syrup or 1 to 2 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide. The cat should be bathed to remove any residual poison on its body, and taken to a veterinarian for further treatment. Treatment will be based on what poison the cat ingested.



Rabies Alert!

When was your cat last vaccinated against rabies? It could mean the difference between life and death of your pet, and the possible infection of you and your family.

Rabies is on the upsurge especially in the mid-Atlantic states. Also it continues to be a serious problem in the midwest and southwest states. Outdoor cats are at a greater risk because they have more opportunity to come in contact with rabid wildlife. Therefore, it is especially important that these animals are vaccinated on a regular schedule. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 12 weeks of age. Cats should be revaccinated in one year. Thereafter, a booster will provide protection against rabies.

Does Your Cat Have Rodent Ulcers?

Rodent ulcer is one form of eosinophilic granuloma complex. It is commonly seen in cats of all ages, sexes, and breeds. The cause of the disease is still unknown; however, proposed causes include allergies, viruses, trauma and bacteria. The lesion usually first appears as a small indentation on the margin of the upper lip. If the condition persists, it will progress into a glistening, reddish-brown lesion with raised borders. Although there is no pain or itching generally associated with the lesion, the cat will constantly lick the lesion.

If you suspect that your cat has rodent ulcer, take it to your veterinarian who can confirm your suspicions and treat the condition. Diagnostic tests that your veterinarian may perform for confirmation of rodent ulcer include a complete blood count and skin biopsy. Treatment usually consists of dosages of corticosteroids. Long term treatment is required for some cases. If left untreated, the rodent ulcer may develop into a form of skin cancer.

The information for *Feline Forum* has been provided by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 1989.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rat Poisons Can Harm Cats

Chemical warfare against rodents is a common practice by many homeowners trying to rid their premises of mice, rats, or other rodents. Although rodenticides (rodent poisons) are effective eliminators of pests, they can also be hazardous to pets.

Most of the rodenticides marketed today use anticoagulant (blood clotting inhibitor) chemicals or cholecalciferol (vitamin D₃). Rodenticides are formulated for use as toxic baits or tracking powders. Secondary poisoning can occur when the cat catches and consumes a poisoned rodent. Fortunately, secondary poisoning is not as hazardous because the poison is at a reduced level of toxicity.

The tracking powders are more of a direct threat to cats, especially if the powders are placed in an area which is frequented by cats. The powders adhere to the feet and fur of both rodents and cats, and the poisons are then voluntarily ingested when the animal grooms itself.

If you observe your cat ingesting rodenticide tracking powders, induce vomiting immediately with 1/2 teaspoon of ipecac syrup or 1 to 2 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide. The cat should be bathed to remove any residual poison on its body, and taken to a veterinarian for further treatment. Treatment will be based on what poison the cat ingested.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rat Poisons Can Harm Cats

Chemical warfare against rodents is a common practice by many homeowners trying to rid their premises of mice, rats, or other rodents. Although rodenticides (rodent poisons) are effective eliminators of pests, they can also be hazardous to pets.

Most of the rodenticides marketed today use anticoagulant (blood clotting inhibitor) chemicals or cholecalciferol (vitamin D₃). Rodenticides are formulated for use as toxic baits or tracking powders. Secondary poisoning can occur when the cat catches and consumes a poisoned rodent. Fortunately, secondary poisoning is not as hazardous because the poison is at a reduced level of toxicity.

The tracking powders are more of a direct threat to cats, especially if the powders are placed in an area which is frequented by cats. The powders adhere to the feet and fur of both rodents and cats, and the poisons are then voluntarily ingested when the animal grooms itself.

If you observe your cat ingesting rodenticide tracking powders, induce vomiting immediately with 1/2 teaspoon of ipecac syrup or 1 to 2 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide. The cat should be bathed to remove any residual poison on its body, and taken to a veterinarian for further treatment.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rabies Alert!

When was your cat last vaccinated against rabies? It could mean the difference between life and death of your pet, and the possible infection of you and your family.

Rabies is on the upsurge especially in the mid-Atlantic states. Also it continues to be a serious problem in the midwest and southwest states. Outdoor cats are at a greater risk because they have more opportunity to come in contact with rabid wildlife. Therefore, it is especially important that these animals are vaccinated on a regular schedule. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 12 weeks of age. Cats should be revaccinated in one year. Thereafter, a booster will provide protection against rabies.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rabies Alert!

When was your cat last vaccinated against rabies? It could mean the difference between life and death of your pet, and the possible infection of you and your family.

Rabies is on the upsurge especially in the mid-Atlantic states. Also it continues to be a serious problem in the midwest and southwest states.

Outdoor cats are at a greater risk because they have more opportunity to come in contact with rabid wildlife. Therefore, it is especially important that these animals are vaccinated on a regular schedule. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 12 weeks of age. Cats should be revaccinated in one year. Thereafter, a booster will provide protection against rabies.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rabies Alert!

When was your cat last vaccinated against rabies? It could mean the difference between life and death of your pet, and possible infection of you and your family.

Rabies is on the upsurge especially in the mid-Atlantic states. Also it continues to be a serious problem in the midwest and southwest states.

Outdoor cats are at a greater risk because they have more opportunity to come in contact with rabid wildlife. Therefore, it is especially important that these animals are vaccinated on a regular schedule. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 12 weeks of age. Cats should be revaccinated in one year. Thereafter, a booster will provide protection against rabies.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rabies Alert!

When was your cat last vaccinated against rabies? It could mean the difference between life and death of your pet, and possible infection of you and your family.

Rabies is on the upsurge especially in the mid-Atlantic states. Also it continues to be a serious problem in the midwest and southwest states.

Outdoor cats are at a greater risk because they have more opportunity to come in contact with rabid wildlife. Therefore, it is especially important that these animals are vaccinated on a regular schedule. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 12 weeks of age. Cats should be revaccinated in one year. Thereafter, a booster will provide protection against rabies.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rodent Ulcers

Rodent ulcer is one form of eosinophilic granuloma complex. It is commonly seen in cats of all ages, sexes, and breeds. The cause of the disease is still unknown; however, proposed causes include allergies, viruses, trauma and bacteria. The lesion usually first appears as a small indentation on the margin of the upper lip. If the condition persists, it will progress into a glistening, reddish-brown lesion with raised borders. Although there is no pain or itching generally associated with the lesion, the cat will constantly lick the lesion.

If you suspect that your cat has rodent ulcer, take it to your veterinarian who can confirm your suspicions and treat the condition. Diagnostic tests that your veterinarian may perform for confirmation of rodent ulcer include a complete blood count and skin biopsy. Treatment usually consists of dosages of corticosteroids. Long term treatment is required for some cases. If left untreated, the rodent ulcer may develop into a form of skin cancer.

Relapses of rodent ulcer often occur, especially if medication is not given for the proscribed time or the cat re-experiences the original cause of the condition. Also, for some cases, long term treatment is required. If left untreated, the rodent ulcer may develop into squamous cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rodent Ulcers

Rodent ulcer is one form of eosinophilic granuloma complex. It is commonly seen in cats of all ages, sexes, and breeds. The cause of the disease is still unknown; however, proposed causes include allergies, viruses, trauma and bacteria. The lesion usually first appears as a small indentation on the margin of the upper lip. If the condition persists, it will progress into a glistening, reddish-brown lesion with raised borders. Although there is no pain or itching generally associated with the lesion, the cat will constantly lick the lesion.

If you suspect that your cat has rodent ulcer, take it to your veterinarian who can confirm your suspicions and treat the condition. Diagnostic tests that your veterinarian may perform for confirmation of rodent ulcer include a complete blood count and skin biopsy.

Relapses of rodent ulcer often occur, especially if medication is not given for the proscribed time or the cat re-experiences the original cause of the condition. Also, for some cases, long term treatment is required. If left untreated, the rodent ulcer may develop into squamous cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer.



Cornell Feline Health Center

Rodent Ulcers

Rodent ulcer is one form of eosinophilic granuloma complex. It is commonly seen in cats of all ages, sexes, and breeds. The cause of the disease is still unknown; however, proposed causes include allergies, viruses, trauma and bacteria. The lesion usually first appears as a small indentation on the margin of the upper lip. If the condition persists, it will progress into a glistening, reddish-brown lesion with raised borders. Although there is no pain or itching generally associated with the lesion, the cat will constantly lick the lesion.

If you suspect that your cat has rodent ulcer, take it to your veterinarian who can confirm your suspicions and treat the condition. For some cases, long term treatment is required. If left untreated, the rodent ulcer may develop into squamous cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer.



Cornell Feline Health Center