

“Spot-on” products: Do not use parasite products for dogs on cats

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“Spot-on” products are available on the market to protect pets against ticks and fleas. “Spot-ons” are liquid products that usually protect against parasites. They are applied to the skin. However, some of them may contain active substances that are poorly tolerated by cats and, if not used properly, can lead to poisoning or even death in the worst case. The names of active substances are provided on the product packaging. Substances such as permethrin, pyrethroids, pyrethrin and chrysanthemum extract can be hazardous to cats’ health in excessive doses.

It is therefore particularly important that products intended for dogs are not used on cats. Dogs and cats react differently to certain active substances. Thus, some products are well tolerated by dogs, but lead to poisoning in cats. In addition, it is important to adhere to the dosage indicated on the packaging. Larger doses will not provide a greater benefit, but are harmful.

Care should also be taken with products that are not used directly on animals, as they may also contain active substances that are not well tolerated by cats. This applies, for example, to products against fleas used in the surroundings of the animals. Cats should be kept away from such products and from areas where they are used.

If a cat suffers from convulsions, tremors, coordination and balance problems such as staggering, increased salivation, vomiting or diarrhoea after treatment or contact, it is advisable to consult a vet immediately. The preparation used or its packaging should be presented. If poisoning has been diagnosed, either the veterinarian or the animal owner can submit a report to the Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/05_Tierarzneimittel/formulare/Formular_zur_Meldung_unerwunschter_Ereignisse_ausfuellbar.html?nn=11033102). In this way, products that frequently lead to poisonings can be identified and countermeasures can be taken.

_Further information on the topic on the BfR website:

https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/a-z_index/biocides-129802.html#fragment-2



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