

ASPIRIN POISONING

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Aspirin should not be given to cats, at least until a safe dose has been determined, and 10 grains daily is lethal. A 5-year-old Persian castrate treated for "pain" with aspirin, 2.5 grains q.i.d., stopped eating 2 days later, vomited occasionally, and panted continuously. When brought in 12 hours later, having been given 22.5 grains in 2½ days, he was weak and so hypersensitive that sedation was needed before examination. Temperature was 105.5, WBC count 12,900, PCV 335%, SGOT elevated to 148 U. Urine was normal except for 3+ bilirubin. He was given 100 ml balanced electrolyte solution i.v., b.i.d., but died in 40 hours after being in coma for 12 hours with high fever and rapid respiration.

At necropsy the stomach had streaks of hemorrhage and ulceration in the fundus. The liver was pale, with centrilobular necrosis. The brain was edematous, without significant alteration. Similar signs and lesions were induced in 3 cats by dosage with 5 grains b.i.d. One seemed about normal for 5 days, then on the 6th had fever, hypersensitivity, blood in the feces, and convulsions ending in death. The other 2 vomited and lost appetite in 2 or 3 days. One was so sick she had to be killed at once; the other died in 6 days. All had gastritis and toxic hepatitis.