

# ACUTE ASPIRIN TOXICITY

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A 6-month-old female Siamese weighing 1 kg developed neurologic signs of ataxia, nystagmus and hypersensitivity after the owner had given a total aspirin dosage of 162 mg (ea 3 grains) in a 24-hour period. Upon examination the cat was very incoordinated, moderately dehydrated, and its temperature was 102.5. Urine pH was 5.5, reflecting a possible acidosis, and a 3-plus bilirubin suggested liver damage. Treatment consisted of 25, nil (22.3 mEq/L) sodium bicarbonate via stomach tube, 150 ml lactated Ringer's solution i.p., and 10 mg furosemide (Lasix: National)

In aspirin toxicity the disturbed acid-base balance is the most prominent disorder, and correction of the acidosis is imperative. After 5 hours the nystagmus was noticeably improved but the incoordination persisted. The following day 70 ml Ringer's lactate s.c., 300,000 U penicillin, and 1 ml B-vitamin were administered. The cat was released and 50mg tylosin tablets were dispensed to be given t.i.d. for 5 days. Recovery was uneventful except that a mild ataxia still persisted 6 months later.