Kill the flea.

Not the cat.

Permethrin spot-on flea products for dogs can kill cats

Only use cat products on cats – ask here for advice

icatcare.org/permethrin
Owner advice

To reduce the number of cats poisoned by permethrin, International Cat Care is advising cat owners to:

◆ Never purposely use dog flea spot-on products on cats.
◆ Never scale down dog treatment to fit a cat – even a small dose can be lethal. A cat is not a small dog.
◆ Where there are cats and dogs in the same house do not use a dog spot-on which contains permethrin (there are many flea products for dogs which do not contain this chemical). If you do use one, keep the cat and dog separate for 72 hours.
◆ Always read the pack and heed warnings – just because a product is cheap and easily available does not mean that it cannot cause harm.
◆ Treatment for fleas is important to cat health – choose the right product and, if in doubt, ask your vet. There are many safe and effective flea spot-ons and other types of flea treatment which are suitable for cats.
◆ Store dog and cat products separately at home – it is very easy to mix up the small pipettes from multi-treatment packs and use the wrong one.
◆ If you have applied any spot-on product containing permethrin onto your cat by accident, wash off the product at once with water and a mild detergent and seek immediate treatment from your veterinary surgeon. Take the product package with you and show it to your vet.
◆ If you have an incident where your cat is poisoned by a permethrin product (whether it is fatal or not) make sure you contact the VMD (www.gov.uk/report-veterinary-medicine-problem/animal-reacts-medicine) and report the problem. All too often it is not reported, the true number of cases is not recorded, and nothing is done.
◆ Check what you have in the kitchen drawer – a list of permethrin-containing dog spot-on products is available on International Cat Care’s website at www.icatcare.org/permethrin along with more information about permethrin poisoning.

Support International Cat Care’s campaign to ensure that permethrin-containing dog spot-on products are only to be sold with advice, either through veterinary surgeons or shops where there are suitable qualified people to advise pet owners – sign up to our petition at: www.icatcare.org/permethrin/petition