TIME TO ACCEPTANCE OF AEROSOL DELIVERY CHAMBER IN HEALTHY DOGS AND CATS

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OBJECTIVE

Aerosol medications are commonly recommended for use in dogs and cats, however, anxiety regarding tolerance and compliance to application of the face mask / chamber may be a barrier to clinicians recommending inhalation therapy.

The goal of this study was to evaluate the duration of time required to train a dog or cat to accept the mask / chamber.

METHODS

- Students and staff of the Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University with no prior training or experience using chambers were recruited.
- Instructions on use of the inhaler and chamber were given.
- Participants attempted to apply the mask / chamber (AeroKat or AeroDawg, Trudell Animal Health) twice a day at home.
- Each attempt was graded from not tolerated at all (1) to perfect compliance (5).
- Animals had 30 days to achieve compliance.
- Compliance was defined by acceptance of the mask / chamber with minimal or no restraint (grade 4 or 5) for at least 10 breaths for 4 separate treatments.

RESULTS

Species	n (#)	Acceptance Rate	Median Time to Compliance	
Dog	22	100%	4 days	(2-18 days)
Cat	22	90%	6 days	(2-19 days)

22 dogs and 22 cats were enrolled. All dogs were cooperative with a median time to compliance of 4 days (2-18 days). 90% of cats were compliant by 30 days, excluding 2 which were non-compliant. The median time to compliance was 6 days (2-19 days).

Student / Staff Participants	% That Would Now Recommend
44	100%

All participants reported that they 'definitively would' or 'most likely would' recommend an inhaler to their (future) clients.

IMPACT

Training to chamber acceptance can be easily performed in dogs and almost all cats.

Steps for training a cat or dog to use an inhaler and mask / chamber

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CONDITION

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LOVE

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REWARD

Concerns over potential challenges of mask / chamber training should not influence medical recommendations to manage lower airway disease with inhalation therapy as a safer alternative to systemic treatments.