

## New Treatments for Feline Asthma

**Recent advances in understanding the disease have helped more cats breathe with greater ease.**

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Bronchodilators are also available as MDIs. Albuterol is the one most commonly used in asthmatic cats. It acts more rapidly than oral or injectable forms. It can be used daily, or as needed for asthmatic cats that are already on daily steroids, yet still have occasional episodes of coughing, wheezing or increased respiratory effort at rest.

Muffy's Reaction Muffy hated being pillled, and side effects precluded the use of oral steroids. Beerstein agreed to have Muffy try the inhaler and spacer. After demonstration of the proper technique, Beerstein quickly mastered the application of the inhaler and spacer to Muffy's muzzle. "She really resented the pills, but didn't mind the facemask," he said. "I think she realized that it was making her feel better."

Feline asthma is not a curable disease, but recent advances in our understanding of the disorder have allowed veterinarians to devise more effective treatment plans, and cats are breathing with greater ease as a result.