



## Common poisons in cats

### Paracetamol.

This drug is an anti-inflammatory, used to treat pain or reduce fevers. People commonly take it for headache, or when they have a cold. In some countries it is known as acetaminophen.

In cats the poison affects the ability of the red blood cells to carry oxygen. The toxic level is as little as one tablet per cat. There is an antidote but it must be given intravenously before the cat suffers irreparable damage and dies.

If you think your cat has eaten a paracetamol tablet please take it to vet immediately. Our emergency number is 0413 797 204 to get directions to the closest available vet.

In Sydney paracetamol is commonly found in *Panadol*, *Panadeine*, *Panadol osteo*, .....

**Vet Notes** N-acetylcystine 140mg/kg IV then 70mg/kg PO q6 for 7 treatments; ascorbic acid 30mg/kg PO or SC; emergency conversion of methemaglobin to hemaglobin with methylene blue 1-2mg/kg IV; for Heinz bodies Cimetadine 10mg/kg IV, IM, PO q6-8.