Winston is a 2-and-1/2-year-old, onyx-colored dachshund that has suffered from recurring episodes of moderate to severe cramping intestinal pain, intermittent diarrhea, and vomiting. His stool cultures indicate no bacterial overgrowth. He has been maintained on oral prebiotics, probiotics, and folic acid. Although no endoparasites have been isolated, he has been treated with metronidazole on four occasions for severe symptoms. He also has received an injection of anti-spasmodic medication with the first dose of each metronidazole prescription.

His medical history is unremarkable except for the intestinal symptomatology. He was one of four in a litter born in November 2003. The dog has received appropriate and consistent veterinary care throughout his life. He weighs 16 pounds, his customary adult weight. Chest sounds and temperature remain within normal limits. During acute episodes, auscultation indicates a persistent, crackling cellophane-like noise in the abdomen. He stretches his legs behind him or “doubles” in apparent pain. These observations together led to a diagnosis of colitis.

Although the overall goal of the treatment of colitis is control of the underlying disease process, this animal clearly needed immediate relief of painful symptoms. On Winston’s last visit to his veterinarian, a tri-mixture suspension was prescribed for symptom control that contained the following:
Case Report: Transdermal Fluoxetine as Therapy for Feline Anxiety

Shannon W. Fields, BA, CPhT
Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
Edmond, Oklahoma

The owner presented his 8-year-old feline to a veterinarian, who was consulted for an inappropriate urination behavior. The owner stated that the cat had been urinating in areas inside the house.

Upon further questioning, the owner mentioned that the cat had previously been litter-trained and had not deviated from using the litter box since she was a kitten. Four weeks prior to the appointment with the veterinarian, the litter box was removed, and it was after the move that the feline began urinating on carpeted areas inside the house.

The veterinarian did some blood work and routine tests on the cat and determined that illness was not a factor. He interviewed the pet's owners to find out when and where the cat's inappropriate urinating behavior occurred. He suggested that the possibility that the previous resident may have owned an animal that left traces of urine on certain parts of the carpet. The veterinarian recommended that the owners have the carpets professionally cleaned prior to taking any other action. The owners received this recommendation, and the cat continued to display the behavior and was returned to the veterinarian for further evaluation. The cat's inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication.

For dogs, as for humans, symptomatic therapy is only one stage of the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammation. For dogs, symptoms of gastrointestinal inflammation vary among breeds of dogs and is most prevalent in wheaten terriers, boxers, and German shepherds.

Fluoxetine is a 20-mg/mL concentration. The medication was dispensed in 1-mL syringes with directions to start the 9-pound cat at a dose of 0.2 mL (4 mg) daily. This allowed for a flexible dose, which could be adjusted easily in either direction. No adjustment was needed in the dosage, and the owner reported that the inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication. The dosage was gradually reduced, the cat was weaned off the fluoxetine after 5 months, and no further behavioral incidents were reported by the owner.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


Davidson G. Veterinary transdermal medications: A to Z. IJPC 2003; 9(2): 106-113


**Case Report: Transdermal Fluoxetine as Therapy for Feline Anxiety**

**Shannon W. Fields, BA, CPhT**

Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
Edmond, Oklahoma

The owner presented his 8-year-old feline to a veterinarian, who was consulted for an inappropriate urination behavior. The owner stated that the cat had been urinating in areas inside the house.

Upon further questioning, the owner mentioned that the cat had previously been litter-trained and had not deviated from using the litter box since she was a kitten. Four weeks prior to the appointment with the veterinarian, the litter box was removed, and it was after the move that the feline began urinating on carpeted areas inside the house.

The veterinarian did some blood work and routine tests on the cat and determined that illness was not a factor. He interviewed the pet's owners to find out when and where the cat's inappropriate urinating behavior occurred. He suggested that the possibility that the previous resident may have owned an animal that left traces of urine on certain parts of the carpet. The veterinarian recommended that the owners have the carpets professionally cleaned prior to taking any other action. The owners received this recommendation, and the cat continued to display the behavior and was returned to the veterinarian for further evaluation. The cat's inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication. The dosage was gradually reduced, the cat was weaned off the fluoxetine after 5 months, and no further behavioral incidents were reported by the owner.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


Davidson G. Veterinary transdermal medications: A to Z. IJPC 2003; 9(2): 106-113


**Case Report: Transdermal Fluoxetine as Therapy for Feline Anxiety**

**Shannon W. Fields, BA, CPhT**

Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
Edmond, Oklahoma

The owner presented his 8-year-old feline to a veterinarian, who was consulted for an inappropriate urination behavior. The owner stated that the cat had been urinating in areas inside the house.

Upon further questioning, the owner mentioned that the cat had previously been litter-trained and had not deviated from using the litter box since she was a kitten. Four weeks prior to the appointment with the veterinarian, the litter box was removed, and it was after the move that the feline began urinating on carpeted areas inside the house.

The veterinarian did some blood work and routine tests on the cat and determined that illness was not a factor. He interviewed the pet's owners to find out when and where the cat's inappropriate urinating behavior occurred. He suggested that the possibility that the previous resident may have owned an animal that left traces of urine on certain parts of the carpet. The veterinarian recommended that the owners have the carpets professionally cleaned prior to taking any other action. The owners received this recommendation, and the cat continued to display the behavior and was returned to the veterinarian for further evaluation. The cat's inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication. The dosage was gradually reduced, the cat was weaned off the fluoxetine after 5 months, and no further behavioral incidents were reported by the owner.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


Davidson G. Veterinary transdermal medications: A to Z. IJPC 2003; 9(2): 106-113


**Case Report: Transdermal Fluoxetine as Therapy for Feline Anxiety**

**Shannon W. Fields, BA, CPhT**

Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
Edmond, Oklahoma

The owner presented his 8-year-old feline to a veterinarian, who was consulted for an inappropriate urination behavior. The owner stated that the cat had been urinating in areas inside the house.

Upon further questioning, the owner mentioned that the cat had previously been litter-trained and had not deviated from using the litter box since she was a kitten. Four weeks prior to the appointment with the veterinarian, the litter box was removed, and it was after the move that the feline began urinating on carpeted areas inside the house.

The veterinarian did some blood work and routine tests on the cat and determined that illness was not a factor. He interviewed the pet's owners to find out when and where the cat's inappropriate urinating behavior occurred. He suggested that the possibility that the previous resident may have owned an animal that left traces of urine on certain parts of the carpet. The veterinarian recommended that the owners have the carpets professionally cleaned prior to taking any other action. The owners received this recommendation, and the cat continued to display the behavior and was returned to the veterinarian for further evaluation. The cat's inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication. The dosage was gradually reduced, the cat was weaned off the fluoxetine after 5 months, and no further behavioral incidents were reported by the owner.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


Davidson G. Veterinary transdermal medications: A to Z. IJPC 2003; 9(2): 106-113


**Case Report: Transdermal Fluoxetine as Therapy for Feline Anxiety**

**Shannon W. Fields, BA, CPhT**

Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
Edmond, Oklahoma

The owner presented his 8-year-old feline to a veterinarian, who was consulted for an inappropriate urination behavior. The owner stated that the cat had been urinating in areas inside the house.

Upon further questioning, the owner mentioned that the cat had previously been litter-trained and had not deviated from using the litter box since she was a kitten. Four weeks prior to the appointment with the veterinarian, the litter box was removed, and it was after the move that the feline began urinating on carpeted areas inside the house.

The veterinarian did some blood work and routine tests on the cat and determined that illness was not a factor. He interviewed the pet's owners to find out when and where the cat's inappropriate urinating behavior occurred. He suggested that the possibility that the previous resident may have owned an animal that left traces of urine on certain parts of the carpet. The veterinarian recommended that the owners have the carpets professionally cleaned prior to taking any other action. The owners received this recommendation, and the cat continued to display the behavior and was returned to the veterinarian for further evaluation. The cat's inappropriate urination behavior ceased completely after approximately 3 weeks of medication. The dosage was gradually reduced, the cat was weaned off the fluoxetine after 5 months, and no further behavioral incidents were reported by the owner.

**SUGGESTED READINGS**


Davidson G. Veterinary transdermal medications: A to Z. IJPC 2003; 9(2): 106-113