



Giving Your Cat's Inhaler

The spacer-and-mask technique, step by step, and how to win a cat over

PETSLIKEMINE
BREATHING & AIRWAYS

CAT NAME	INHALER(S)	VET PRACTICE
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Cats take to inhalers far better than you would expect, with a week or two of patience. This is the technique and how to build it up. Which inhalers and how many puffs is your vet's plan; this sheet is the how, not the what.

THE TECHNIQUE, STEP BY STEP

- Shake the inhaler (prime it if it is new or unused for a while)
- Settle the cat, then seal the soft mask gently over nose and mouth
- Hold the mask in place for about seven to ten breaths, watching the indicator move
- Fit it to the spacer chamber
- Press the inhaler once
- Reward straight away

IF THERE ARE TWO INHALERS

The usual order is the reliever first, wait a moment, then the controller, but follow your vet's plan. The daily controller is what keeps the airways calm; never stop it because the cat seems well.

WINNING A SUSPICIOUS CAT OVER (THE PART THAT MATTERS)

- Over several days, introduce the empty chamber and mask with treats and calm
- Never force it; a fight today costs you a fortnight
- Build from a touch, to a few seconds, to the real thing

COMMON MISTAKES

- A poor mask seal (air leaks, the dose is lost)
- Too few breaths after the puff
- Not cleaning the chamber
- Giving up before the cat has settled into it

THIS IS NOT FOR AN ATTACK

An inhaled steroid controller works slowly to prevent attacks. Open-mouth breathing, blue or grey gums, or hard belly-breathing is an emergency, go to the vet, do not wait for an inhaler to work.

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Seal the mask, one puff, count seven to ten breaths, reward, and build it up gently over a few days. Log the doses so missed ones do not creep in.

BUILD IT UP OVER A FEW DAYS, REWARD EVERY TIME