

Next level in parasite prevention. Bravecto Plus[®] spot on for cats

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In Europe, an increase in pet travel and climate changes will probably influence the present epidemiological situation of many parasites e.g. introduction of new species into different regions. This includes endo and ectoparasites. Therefore, a need for parasite prevention becomes more and more important part of veterinary practice. There is a wide range of helminths that can infect cats in Europe. Majority of them are roundworms such as *Toxocara spp.* and *Ancylostoma spp.* European Scientific Counsel Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP) provides research-based, independent advice that took a form of guidelines which deliver comprehensive information and support to assist both veterinarians and pet owners to successfully control worm infection in cats. Among many relevant information concerning intestinal parasites in cats, ESCCAP guideline gives clear indications concerning frequency of indoor and outdoor cats deworming. It is recommended that cats living in high infection pressure areas to be dewormed at least 4 times a year.

Having in mind the gravity of parasite problem for cats and recent ESCCAP recommendations we would like to introduce new product from MSD AH – Bravecto Plus[®] a combination of fluralaner and moxidectin designed to be used in cats.

Moxidectin is a member of macrocyclic lactones group that was discovered by William C. Campbell Nobel Prize winner (together with Satoshi Omura). Moxidectin blocks inhibitory neurotransmitters in invertebrates that important in locomotion that leads to paralysis and death of the parasite. Despite effective action against intestinal nematodes moxidectin lack substantial efficacy against fleas and ticks. While fluralaner is a potent inhibitor of parts of the arthropod nervous system by acting antagonistically on ligand-gated chloride channels that effectively kills fleas and ticks after single administration to a cat. Experiments have shown that moxidectin do not block effects of fluralaner and vice versa. Thanks to moxidectin and fluralaner combination, Bravecto Plus[®] is indicated for treatment of flea and tick infestations for 12 weeks, prevention of heartworm disease for 8 weeks and treatment of intestinal roundworm and hookworm.

The combination provides immediate and persistent flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) killing activity for 12 weeks. Similarly, efficacy against *Ixodes ricinus* has been shown to be sufficient for 12 weeks too. In case of two species of roundworms – *Toxocara cati* and *Ancylostoma tubaeforme* Bravecto Plus[®] shows efficacy to treat an infection measured as complete stop of egg shedding within few days after administration. On top of that, based on careful studies we could prove an 8-week protection of cats against *Dirofilaria immitis* infection after single administration of Bravecto Plus[®]. It is important to know that cats living in endemic areas for heartworm should be tested for existing infection before application of prevention. Moxidectin is only active on larvae (L3 and L4) of *Dirofilaria immitis* and not on adult worms.

Bravecto Plus[®] is designed to provide effective and convenient protection that is in line with ESCCAP guidelines concerning endo and ectoparasite prevention.