

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF TWO POLYTRAUMATIZED KITTEN ACCIDENTALLY TRAPPED IN FRONT-LOAD WASHING MACHINE

Ceccherini G¹ DVM, PhD, MS, D'Urso¹ A DVM, Battini¹ A DVM, Marchetti² V, DVM, PhD



¹ Ospedale Veterinario San Concordio 24h, via Savonarola 106, Lucca-Italy

²Department of Veterinary Science, University of Pisa - ITALY



Introduction: Young cats can be at risk for getting trapped in washing machines. When this happens, near-drowning, aspiration pneumonia, chemical damage to body tissues, thermal injury, and head trauma can develop¹.



Objective: To describe a successful management of two young cats, accidentally closed in front-loading washing machines.

Cases description

Case 1

A 6-month-old, intact female domestic shorthair kitten, trapped in washing machine for an estimated 15-20 min on the hot cycle. Cat presented a wet coat, labored breathing, pale mucous membranes, 35.6°C rectal temperature, a 142 bt/min heart rate, absent menace response and miotic pupils. Kitten was immediately located in oxygen cage and actively warmed. Warm Ringer lactate (Fresenius Kabi Srl, Italy) was administered (5 mL/kg/h) IV. Blood gas showed a mixed metabolic and respiratory acidosis (Tab.1). Leucocytosis (20x10³/ml; 4.0-181.7x10³/ml) was found and total solids were 6.7 mg/dL. Mannitol (0.5 g/kg, IV), was administered to treat suspected cerebral edema. A total body radiography (Fig.1) showed a patchy alveolar pattern in the right cranial lung lobe and no skeletal or spinal injury or fracture was evidenced. AFAST was negative for abdominal fluid. Amoxicillin+clavulanic acid (12.5 mg/kg SC) was administered. Clinical condition improved after 20h and after 72h the cat was discharged.

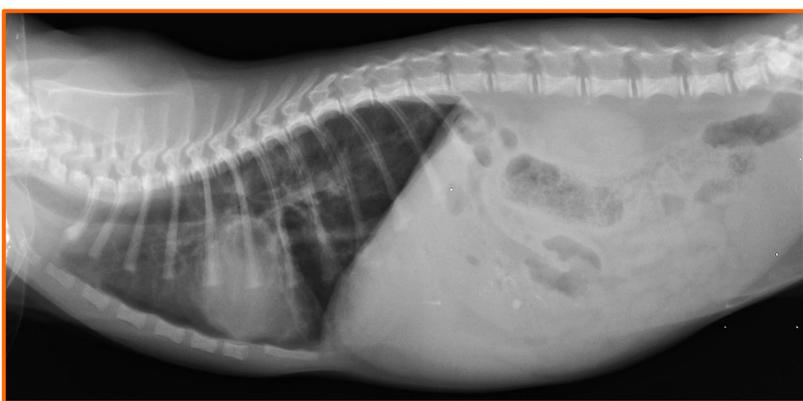


Fig.1 Total body X-ray. A patchy alveolar pattern in the right cranial lobe can be observed.

Venous blood gas parameters	Results	Reference values	Venous blood parameters	Results	Reference values
pH	7.21*	7.34-7.38	Ca ⁺⁺ (mmol/L)	1.3	1.1-1.4
PaCO ₂ mmHg	50*	36-45	-Be (mmol/L)	-15*	-2-+2
Hct	45%	31.7-48%	Mg ⁺⁺ (mg/dL)	1.8	1.9-2.6
BUN (mg/dL)	23	7-29	Na ⁺ (mmol/L)	148	98.5-99.2
Creat (mg/dL)	1.0	1.5-2.5	K ⁺ (mmol/L)	4.5	4.0-5.5
Cl ⁻ (mmol/L)	120	115-125			
HCO ₃ ⁻ mEq/L	11*	20.5-23.9			

Tab.1 Venous blood gas of case 1. *A mixed metabolic and respiratory acidosis was present.



Fig.2 One of the two kittens received. A severe bilateral conjunctivitis due to the irritating action of the detergent can be noticed.

Case 2

A 7-month-old, intact male domestic shorthair kitten received after being in washing machine for an estimated 5 min. Cat presented alert and responsive. Heart rate was 180 bt/min, rectal temperature was 39.5 °C and minimal respiratory effort was present. Skin lesions, similar with burns, were noticed dorsally on the neck and on the abdomen and were treated with application of Hypermix[®] unguent (Hypermix, RI-MOS srl- Italy). A severe bilateral conjunctivitis was observed and a corneal lesion in the right eye was detected with fluorescein test (Fig. 2). Tobramicine and Epigel[®] (Ceva-italy) was administered. A total body radiography revealed a slight alveolar infiltrate in right cranial lung lobe, without evidence of limb fractures or spinal lesion or pleural/ abdominal effusion. A moderate anemia was found at CBC. Ringer lactate (3ml/kg/h IV), amoxicillin+clavulanic acid (12.5 mg/kg SC) and N-acetyl cysteine (70 mg/kg IV) were administered. After 3 days kitten was good and discharged.



Case 1 kitten at home after discharge

Conclusion/Clinical relevance: Our cases showed the challenge to manage this type of emergency, especially in pediatric patients.