PAW HEALTH NETWORK INC.

RODENTICIDE - BROMETHALIN

ABOUT THE DISEASE

There are several different active ingredients in **rat/mouse bait** (**rodenticide**), but outwardly all appear the same. **Rodenticides** containing **bromethalin** act as a neurotoxin that inhibits a function in the brain that causes the brain to swell with fluid. Feline patients are much more sensitive than canine patients, although ingestion is more common in dogs.

Symptoms of **bromethalin** toxicity may take 1-7 days to develop and include:

- Partial paralysis or weakness
- A dull mental state
- Uncoordinated walking (ataxia)
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Death

Prognosis is good if caught early and before clinical signs so the patient can be decontaminated prior to. The prognosis decreases to guarded if mild signs develop. Recovery may take days to weeks if diagnosed at this stage. There is a poor prognosis if paralysis or seizures develop.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A veterinarian or animal poison control (ASPCA) will confirm active ingredients and help direct management.

A thorough clinical history and physical examination with a veterinarian provide a presumptive diagnosis. However, there are no specific tests which can test for **bromethalin** in the blood stream.

TREATMENT

As with most toxicities, if caught within the first two hours, vomiting can be induced to evacuate the stomach and then patients are administered activated charcoal to bind residual intoxicant in the digestive tract.

There is no specific antidote for **bromethalin**. The best chance of success is early decontamination.

Once neurologic symptoms develop, patients require hospitalization and intensive care to minimize effects of seizures and to administer medications to reduce brain swelling. But prognosis is typically poor at this stage.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Contact the Pet Poison Helpline (855.764.7661) for immediate triage of toxicities.
- Seek immediate care for interventional therapies.
- Unlike anticoagulant **rodenticides**, vitamin K is not beneficial in **bromethalin** toxicities.