



ANIMAL ANTICS

Note for Pet Owners:

Pet Patrol 365 provides this information for educational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your veterinarian if your pet is ill, as only they can correctly advise on the diagnosis and the recommended treatment for your pet.

SUNBURN & SKIN CANCER IN CATS

Albino, white animals, or those with white on their faces - particularly their ears, forehead and nose, due to the fur being thinner on these areas - need special care and attention to prevent sunburn, which can lead to skin cancer and the surgical removal of their ears. White or partially white cats appear to be most prone to this condition, perhaps because cats love to bask in the sun.



A perfectly healthy looking cat



Squamous Cell Carcinoma
(probably due to over-exposure to strong sunlight)

Here are some steps you can take to reduce the risks:

- Keep your cat indoors as much as possible, particularly in the couple of hours around midday.
- Don't let it lie on the windowsill in the glare of the sun.
- Use SPF (Sun Protection Factor) 50 sunscreen on vulnerable areas: white ears, forehead and nose. Unfortunately cats will rapidly groom or lick this off and some products may be toxic. Check with your vet before you start using a cream.
- Make a shaded part of your garden attractive to your cat: plant some catnip, place their blanket or bed there with a few toys.
- If concerned, contact your veterinary practice.

Similar precautions should be taken with other white, or partially white-faced animals. Horses with pink noses, for example, can also get badly burnt and need sunscreen. Many horses wear fly-hoods or fringes in the summer, but these still leave the nose exposed. Although a minority of human external lotions and creams can be safely used on pets, always check with your vet or pharmacist that these are non-toxic and safe to use. Never give your pet human by-mouth medication.

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