## **Capsule Dosing the Cat**

Kathleen Rider, LATG, Veterinary Technology Program City University of New York, LaGuardia Community College,NY

Torpac empty gelatin capsules provide a convenient method of orally dosing the domesticated cat. An adult cat can easily swallow a Torpac Size 3 capsule (0.3 ml).<sup>1</sup>

Two dosing methods are shown: capsule dosing via pilling gun and direct pilling by hand. Restraining the animal in a canvas cat  $bag^2$  will facilitate dosing by one person when using either method.

## **Pilling Gun Method**

To dose capsules, a soft plastic dosing tube may be used.<sup>3</sup> The filled capsule should be inserted into the dosing tube so that the cap (shorter piece) end of the capsule protrudes slightly from the tip of the tube. The tip of the capsule may be dipped in mineral oil to aid swallowing.

Grasp the cat's head firmly with one hand about the upper jaw. To open the mouth, depress the index finger of the other hand onto the lower incisors. Place the pilling gun onto the back of the cat's throat and depress the plunger. The cat should swallow the capsule readily.

The radiograph shows correct placement of a barium filled capsule as it passes down the esophagus.

Closing the cat's mouth and stroking the throat will induce swallowing.

## Hand or Direct Pilling Method

A gentle cat may allow pilling of the capsule by hand. Open the cat's mouth using the technique described above.

Tilt the head back and place the capsule into the back of the throat. Push the capsule down the throat to the top of the esophagus with the index finger.

Closing the cat's mouth and stroking the throat will induce swallowing.



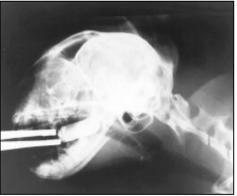
Plastic Pilling Gun with Size 3 Capsule

<sup>1,3</sup> Available from Torpac Inc.<sup>2</sup> Available from Henry Shein





Capsule Dosing via Pilling Gun



Radiograph Showing Capsule in Esophagus



Capsule Dosing via Hand Pilling Method



Stroking To Facilitate Swallowing

## Torpac's gelatin capsules are for professional use by or in consultation with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

For free samples, information on filling machines, or assistance with research or other industrial uses contact us.