

# Spray & walk away... or not

Paul Eason BVM&S MACVSc (Surgery; Emergency & Critical Care Medicine)



**Curiosity killed the cat**, or sometimes it just hurt the cat.

**Cats not only have very sensitive skin**, which makes seemingly harmless substances such as human shampoo potentially dangerous to them, but they also do not like anything on their coats, and will try to lick it off. This is why flea products are put right at the top of the neck, where they cannot reach.

**Some poisons are only poisonous when eaten**, and are safe on intact skin. This is an issue when our feline friends walk on the poison, then lick at their feet.

**Molly is a little cat** who walked across the steps at home which had just been sprayed with a cleaning product, advertised on television recently as one of those convenient ones you just spray and walk away from.

**Molly didn't like the feel of the wet on her feet**, and licked them. The damage to her tongue came up in hours, causing a caustic burn, and lots of pain.

**Luckily, lots of painkillers, fluids and covering anti-biotics** were all that was needed to get her eating, and the surface of her tongue will heal. She also had a bath to remove any remaining poison from her coat.

**Severe mouth burns will require** placement of feeding tubes into the stomach to ensure they can eat while the new tissue forms.

**KEEP PETS AWAY WHEN USING THESE PRODUCTS, WHEREVER POSSIBLE.**



[www.franklinvets.co.nz](http://www.franklinvets.co.nz)