

## Novartis Animal Health launches Atopica for Cats

Author :

Categories : [Product News](#)

Date : February 8, 2012

Novartis Animal Health has announced the launch of Atopica for Cats (cyclosporine oral solution, 100 mg/ml), the first treatment approved in the UK specifically for chronic allergic dermatitis.

**Novartis Animal Health has announced the launch of Atopica for Cats (cyclosporine oral solution, 100 mg/ml), a treatment for chronic allergic dermatitis.**

This disease, which is one of the most common reasons for pet owners to take cats to the veterinarian, can be **difficult to diagnose** and causes itching and associated chewing and licking, skin lesions and loss of hair.



With a similar product already approved and successfully used to treat atopic dermatitis in dogs, Atopica for Cats is the **first medication approved in the UK** specifically for allergic dermatitis in cats.

Developed specifically for domestic felines, Atopica for Cats is an **oral solution** that is easy-to-dose and administer. In studies, approximately one-third of cats took the medicine in their food and two-thirds were dosed directly into the mouth. The product offers a **unique mode of action** that specifically targets immune cells such as the **T-lymphocytes** involved in the allergic reaction. In this way, Atopica for Cats blocks the production of inflammatory cytokines, molecules that fuel the allergic response, breaking the recurrent itch/scratch cycle.

**Keith Hnilica**, author of *Small Animal Dermatology: A Color Atlas and Therapeutic Guide (3rd ed)*, said: "Atopica for Cats has the potential to change how our profession treats the itchy cat. For the first time ever, we have a **safe, highly effective, approved treatment** for cats with allergic dermatitis. And because Atopica for Cats is not a corticosteroid, I can prescribe it for **long-term use** without worrying about the health risks that can be associated with steroids."

Atopica for Cats offers an **advanced alternative to steroids**, avoiding the potential health risks associated with corticosteroids, which in cats include marked cutaneous atrophy, skin fragility, congestive heart failure and increased susceptibility to diabetes mellitus.