

Respiratory Distress in Cats

Treatment	Dose	Indication
Butorphanol	0.1 – 0.3 mg/kg IV, IM, SC	Sedation (inspiratory effort/upper airway obstruction)
Acepromazine	0.01 – 0.02 mg/kg IV, IM, SC	Sedation (inspiratory effort/upper airway obstruction)
Furosemide	1-2 mg/kg IV or IM bolus Consider CRI following bolus	Congestive heart failure
Terbutaline	0.01 – 0.04 mg/kg IM or SC *start with 0.01 mg/kg, repeat if necessary Ex: 5 kg cat = 0.05 mg = 5 U (U-100 insulin syringe)	Bronchoconstriction secondary to lower airway disease (expiratory push)
Albuterol	MDI: 1-2 puffs Nebulizer: 1.25 mg in 2 ml of 0.9% NaCl over 10-20 min	Bronchoconstriction secondary to lower airway disease
Glucocorticoids	Dexamethasone 0.1 – 0.3 mg/kg IV, IM, SC	Upper airway inflammation, Lower airway disease

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