

Megestrol Acetate (MA) Survey

Final Results Summary | Survey closed August 2020



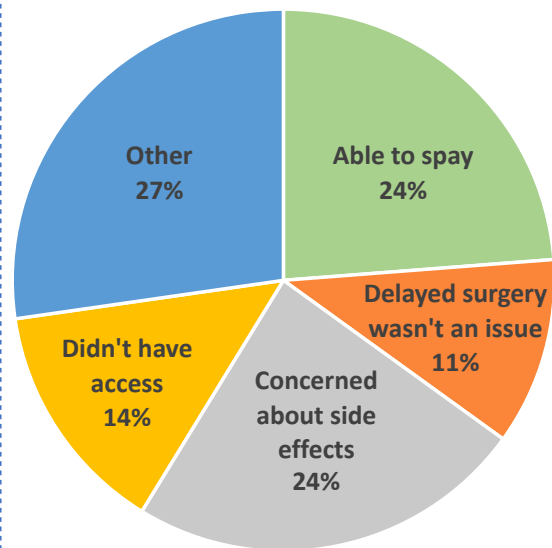
Of the 99 responses analyzed, 81% were from the United States (US). Other responses were from Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Hungary, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Trinidad, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela.

Breakdown of respondents by role:

- Veterinarian – 44%
- Shelter administrator or TNR manager – 32%
- Veterinary staff answering on behalf of a veterinarian – 5%
- Foster parent or caregiver – 8%
- Cat owner – 11%

93% of respondents did not prescribe or use MA as a result of COVID-19 conditions.

Reasons cited for not using or prescribing MA: Respondents were asked to select all applicable reasons for their not using or prescribing MA. The pie chart immediately below is a percent of all reasons given.



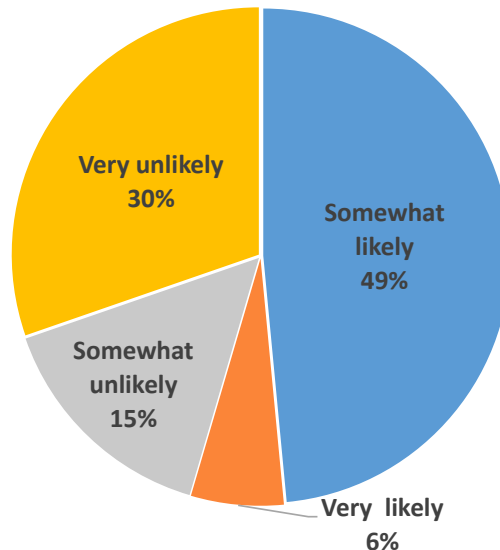
➤ Examples of “other” reasons:

- Didn't know enough about MA to feel comfortable using it
- Concerned about dosing free-roaming cats (not knowing males vs. females, cats not coming regularly)
- Delay in surgery didn't last long enough to develop process and training for MA use, or product acquisition
- Veterinarians were not willing to compound or provide prescription for MA

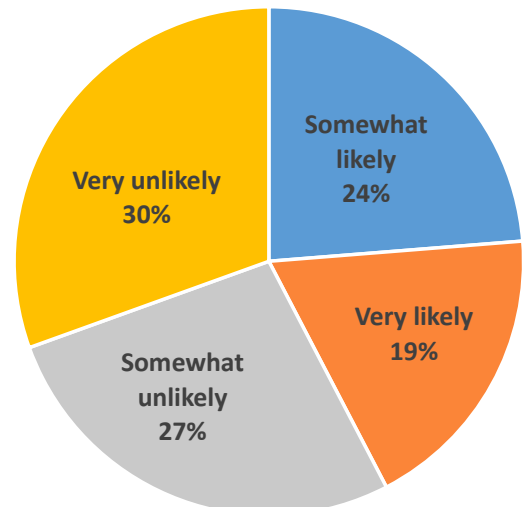
➤ 37% all non-users of MA selected concerns about side effects as a reason for not using MA.

➤ The percentage response for reasons shown in the pie chart to the left was similar for both veterinarians and non-veterinarians with one exception. Veterinarians cited concerns about side effects more often than non-veterinarians (31% vs. 14% of respondents, respectively).

Veterinarians



Non-veterinarians



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Respondents that did not use MA during COVID-19 conditions were asked, if circumstances change, and the need arises, how likely would you be to use or prescribe MA as a female cat contraceptive?

Who used or prescribed MA?

- 6 respondents (3 veterinarians, 2 shelter administrators, and 1 owner) answered that they prescribed or used MA because of COVID-19 conditions, representing about 60 treated cats.
- While detailed results were not provided for all cats, only one respondent (#5 below) reported any pregnancies.
- All respondents reported satisfaction (either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied) using MA as a short-term cat contraceptive.

Very brief summary of these responses:

1. Veterinarian in US: Knew of MA but had never prescribed it before COVID-19. Prescribed MA for 13 cats: 7 shelter cats placed into foster homes intact and 6 cats that were adopted intact. Most common side effect was mammary enlargement that subsided after a few days. No other problems were reported. One cat that was in heat when treatment began, stopped excessively crying after receiving MA.
2. Veterinarian in US: Did not know about MA pre-COVID-19. Prescribed MA for 2 shelter cats placed into foster homes intact. Main drive to use MA was complaints by foster parents about estrous behaviors (yowling). Both cats stopped yowling/displaying behavioral signs of estrous after MA treatment began (both were given initial dose levels for a cat in heat.).¹ No side effects were reported.
3. Veterinarian in Pakistan: Aware of and prescribed MA prior to COVID-19. During COVID-19, prescribed MA for 2 cats awaiting adoption and 3 owned cats. Cat 1 (aged 8 months to 2 years old) received an in-heat dose¹ but was only given MA for one week due to the owner complaining about vaginal discharge. Pyometra was also diagnosed (note: follow-up correspondence revealed this cat had a history of being treated with medroxyprogesterone acetate [MPA]). Cat 2 (3-7 years old) received a low dose of MA and exhibited side effects (lack of appetite and/or weight loss and increased thirst, and aggression towards other cats). Cat 2 continues to receive MA.
4. Shelter administrator/TNR program manager in US: Gave micro-doses to 15 community cats. No side effects were reported. "All 15 cats treated had the same outcomes. All were treated, whether in heat prior or not, then all 15 were fixed and live in their happy outdoor home now."
5. Shelter administrator/TNR program manager in US: Used micro-dosing for a colony of about 30 feral cats. "We started using MA in the spring of 2019, hence it had nothing to do with the pandemic. We still had 3 litters being born, as opposed to 7-8 the years before. One of the litters showed neurological signs and all kittens died. They were seen by a vet, who was not able to determine a cause." No additional side effects were reported.
6. Cat owner in Ukraine: Gave 5 mg once every 2 weeks to 2 owned cats and 2 community cats. No side effects were reported. Treatment is ongoing.

These anecdotal research results contribute to the base of ACC&D's research on MA as an emergency measure for cat contraception. To reference that base of research and our recommendations, visit <https://www.acc-d.org/covid-19-resources>.

¹ In a 2015 review of decades of research^a, the recommended oral dosage for cats not showing estrous signs is 2.5 mg/cat weekly (approximately 0.625 mg/kg/week) for up to 30 weeks ("micro dose"). The oral dosage for cats showing signs of heat is higher at 5 mg/cat daily for three days followed by a 2.5 mg/cat dose weekly after that.

^aRomagnoli, S. "*Progestins to control feline reproduction: Historical abuse of high doses and potentially safe use of low doses*" Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (2015) 17:743–751.