

Deskunking your Dog (or Cat)

Forget tomato juice! Chemists have devised new and better recipes to de-skunk a dog (or cat, for that matter). Paul Krebaum and his colleagues at Molex, Inc., of Lisle IL, were using a hydrogen peroxide solution to clean the odor from sulfur containing gases. When a colleague's cat got perfumed by a skunk, Krebaum suggested the following recipe:

Mix together

1 quart 3 percent Hydrogen peroxide

1/4 cup baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)

1 teaspoon liquid soap (for example, dish soap)

Rub into the hair, then rinse with plenty of tap water. Discard the leftover solution. **WARNING:** Don't make this ahead of time. It produces oxygen and will blow up in a closed container.

This recipe works like a charm. Krebaum says there are several variations. A *DogWatch* editor used it diluted with an equal quantity of tap water on two skunked dogs on two occasions, with sweet-smelling results. Krebaum warns, "If it's a long-haired dog, most of the challenge is getting it in there," down to the skin.

Recipe first appeared in *Chemical & Engineering News*, a publication of the American Chemical Society