

Antihistamines for Pet Allergies

Nighttime Sleep Aid

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine used in the treatment of allergies, insect bites or stings and other causes of itching. It is also used for its sedative and antiemetic effects in the treatment of motion sickness and travel anxiety. It is also used for its antitussive effect. Adult strength 50 mg is often taken as a "Nighttime Sleep Aid". Compare to "Compoz"

Diphenhydramine is a non-prescription (OTC) product available as 25mg and 50mg tablets or capsules as well.

How this medicine should be used:

Diphenhydramine is FDA approved for external use in dogs and cats. Diphenhydramine oral and injectable is not FDA approved for use in veterinary medicine; however, it is a commonly accepted practice to use this medication in dogs and cats. The usual dose in dogs and cats is 0.5-2mg/pound every 8-12 hours. The slow release capsule should not be mixed or dissolved in food. Do not use diphenhydramine found in combination products containing sinus or cold medicine.

What are the side effects:

Side effects of diphenhydramine include drowsiness, dry mouth and urinary retention. Rarely, vomiting and diarrhea can occur.

What special precautions are there:

Do not use this medication in animals that are allergic to it or other antihistamines. Do not use in animals with glaucoma, prostate disease, urinary obstruction, and high blood pressure. Do not use in pregnant or nursing animals. Use with caution when given with other CNS depressant drugs such as tranquilizers or barbiturates. Always tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what other medications your pet is taking.

In the event of an overdose:

Contact your veterinarian or veterinary emergency room. Symptoms of overdose can include seizures, extreme drowsiness, coma, respiratory depression and death.

How should I store this medication:

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed. Store this medication at room temperature, away from excess heat, light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

Keep medication away from children and pets.

This information sheet is for educational purposes only and is intended to be a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise and professional judgment of your veterinarian. The information is NOT to be used for diagnosis or treatment of your pet. You should always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your pet.

The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, allergic reactions, drug interactions or adverse effects, nor should it be construed to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for your pet. It is not a substitute for a veterinary exam, and it does not replace the need for services provided by your veterinarian.

Dosage:

Adults and Children 12 years and older: one tablet at bedtime

Children under 12 years: ask a doctor

Dogs: 25-50 mg/dog, every 8 hours orally, or 2.2 mg/kg every 8-12 hours orally

Cats: 2-4 mg/kg, every 6-8 hours orally

Manufacturer: Rugby Laboratories