

Famciclovir - Main

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is a medication that has activity against viruses. Famciclovir is available as a tablet.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An antiviral medication

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

May be effective in the management of Feline Herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1) to improve clinical signs and reduce viral shedding

WHAT CATS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THIS MEDICATION?

This medication should not be used in animals with pre-existing kidney disease

This medication should be used with caution in severely ill or debilitated pets that are dehydrated

Safety in pregnant or nursing pets has not been established

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this drug should not take this medication

DIRECTIONS:

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work and urinalysis may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. If long-term therapy is required, periodic blood work and urinalysis is often recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your cat is responding clinically.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food.

If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

When your pet will need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medications can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

#### STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Famciclovir should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dark place at room temperature away from heat and direct light.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Do not confuse this medication with Acyclovir

#### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication is usually well tolerated when used short-term

This medication can affect the kidneys causing increased drinking and acute renal disease

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite and weight loss

This medication can cause behavior changes including increased hiding and urethral obstruction resulting in a difficulty to urinate

If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

#### CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Famciclovir in conjunction with other medications that can be toxic to the kidneys (nephrotoxic) and probenecid

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Famciclovir

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

#### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

#### WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, Famciclovir should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about Famciclovir. If you have any questions or concerns about Famciclovir or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.