

Famotidine - Main

Famotidine - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Famotidine - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Famotidine - Oral Suspension (Cats)

Famotidine - Oral Suspension (Dogs)

Famotidine - Tablet (Cats)

Famotidine - Tablet (Dogs)

FAMOTIDINE - Full Version

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Famotidine is used in dogs and cats to reduce the amount of stomach acid produced and to treat and protect against gastric ulcers. It is also used to treat inflammation of, or reflux from, the stomach and esophagus. Famotidine is available as tablets, an oral suspension and as an injectable.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An H₂ receptor antagonist

Injectable forms can be given in the veterinary clinic, but there are several forms that can be given by mouth at home

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Used to reduce the amount of stomach acid produced, plus to treat ulcers and protect against ulcer formation

Used in the treatment of gastritis and esophagitis (inflammation of the stomach and esophagus, respectively)

Used to treat gastric and esophageal reflux

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Use with caution during pregnancy as it can affect weight gain

Avoid use of Famotidine if your pet is nursing puppies/kittens

Use with caution in older pets or those with heart, liver or kidney disease

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to Famotidine or like products before

Some H₂ receptor antagonists are sold without a prescription (OTC/over the counter) but should be used under the supervision and guidance of your veterinarian

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of famotidine is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, 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. The length of use, frequency of administration, and expected improvement is dependent upon your pet's diagnosis, clinical response, and initial reason for use.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug. Periodic blood work may be required to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments or changes to the dosage schedule may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically.

This medication is often given on an empty stomach as food will decrease its effectiveness. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

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

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally give this medication at the same time every day.

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 will your pet need to be rechecked

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

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

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

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Famotidine tablets should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Famotidine oral liquids should be refrigerated.

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

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication is usually well tolerated

Possible loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea and fatigue

May have a temporary increase in stomach acid production when Famotidine is discontinued

May decrease white blood cell count, especially if your pet is also receiving other bone marrow suppressing drugs (e.g. azathioprine)

Intravenous use in cats may cause red blood cell damage

Prolonged use in cats may result in reduced effectiveness

This medication interferes with allergic skin testing. Check with your veterinary dermatologist when to discontinue Famotidine in advance of allergy testing.

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 Famotidine in conjunction with antacids, cefpodoxime, cefuroxime, cisapride, fluconazole, fluoxetine, itraconazole, ketoconazole, and iron supplements

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Famotidine

Give Famotidine 2 hours before or after other medications

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 eats 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, Famotidine 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 Famotidine. If you have any questions or concerns about Famotidine or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.