

Spironolactone - Main

Spironolactone - Oral Suspension (Cats)

Spironolactone - Oral Suspension (Dogs)

Spironolactone - Tablet (Cats)

Spironolactone - Tablet (Dogs)

General Description:

Spironolactone is a diuretic used in dogs and cats to remove excess fluid from the body. This drug may have been chosen because your pet has not responded to other types of diuretics. Unlike other diuretics, Spironolactone does not cause blood potassium to be lost. It is available only by prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

What is this drug?

Spironolactone is a diuretic (helps the body lose water via increased urine production)

Spironolactone is given by mouth

Reasons for prescribing:

Because this drug helps remove excessive fluids from the body, it is useful in the treatment of congestive heart failure, ascites (excess fluid in the abdomen) and edema (excess fluid in the tissues)

Animal Precautions:

This medication is used off-label in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian

Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian

Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:

High blood potassium levels (hyperkalemia), or those with, or at risk for, Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism) or diabetes

Kidney or liver disease

Pets unable to urinate

Pets taking the drug mitotane (treatment for Cushing's disease)

Safety has not been established in:

Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

Directions:

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. Do not discontinue the drug abruptly or without directions from your veterinarian, as your pet's condition may worsen.

The duration of administration depends on the condition being treated, response to the medication and the development of any adverse effects. Be certain to complete the prescription unless specifically directed by your veterinarian. Even if your pet feels better, the entire treatment should be completed to prevent relapse.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work, blood pressure measurements, chest radiographs, electrocardiogram (ECG) and urinalysis may be recommended if your pet has an underlying heart disease. Periodic blood work may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. It will be very important to follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding recheck appointments. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

This medication is often given with food to increase its absorption and lessen stomach upset.

Ensure your pet has plenty of food and fresh, clean drinking water while taking Spironolactone. It is important that your pet eats and drinks well to decrease the likelihood of side effects. Speak to your veterinarian if your pet does not eat or drink well.

Your pet will have to urinate more frequently than normal and 'accidents' are possible.

This product may be provided to you as tablets. If it is difficult for you to administer tablets to your pet, your veterinarian may be able to have it formulated as an oral liquid or a transdermal gel.

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

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

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.

Call ahead for refills.

What if 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

What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species

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 medicines can be given together.

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

Storage and Warnings:

Store in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Store oral liquids in the refrigerator. Follow expiry date notification. Shake well before use.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Potential side effects:

This medication will cause an increase in urine production which is the desired effect

Electrolyte (salts) imbalances may occur. Weakness or lethargy could indicate potassium levels have become too high. Weakness and confusion could indicate low sodium levels.

This medication can cause dehydration and worsening of underlying kidney disease

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing vomiting, anorexia and diarrhea

This medication can cause facial skin inflammation or dermatitis

This medication can affect the central nervous system causing lethargy, difficulty walking or affecting balance

Contact your veterinarian if your pet shows these effects or you notice anything unusual

Contact your veterinarian if your pet's heart condition seems to worsen

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 Spironolactone in conjunction with ACE inhibitors (enalapril, captopril or lisinopril), angiotensin receptor blockers (telmisartan), atenolol, carvedilol, cholestyramine, DOCP, digoxin, mitotane, neuromuscular blockers (pancuronium, rocuronium, vecuronium), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), potassium sparing diuretics (triamterene), potassium supplements, propranolol and salicylates (aspirin, bismuth subsalicylate)

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Spironolactone

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 consumes 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, Spironolactone should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to Spironolactone at regular check ups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving Spironolactone.

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