

Walker Veterinary Hospital

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DIPHENHYDRAMINE

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine used to prevent the symptoms of allergies. This medication may also be used for its sedative effect to calm an animal and therefore, prevent itching associated with an allergic response. This medication may be used for other conditions as determined by your veterinarian.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian.
READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.
- If the medicine is a liquid, measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed.
- **DO NOT** give the medicine more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.



What do I do if I miss giving a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

What are the potential side effects?

- Your pet may be very tired, drowsy, have a dry mouth and urinary retention. If these symptoms are troublesome, contact your veterinarian.
- Drowsiness may diminish over time.
- Less common side effects include diarrhea, vomiting and a lack of appetite.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

Are there any possible drug interactions?

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving to your pet.

- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with diphenhydramine: other CNS depressants, heparin, warfarin, and epinephrine.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

REMEMBER! READ THE LABEL.

*This client information sheet is based on material written by Rita Ozolins, B.Sc., Phm.
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