

Walker Veterinary Hospital

Melanie S. Walker, D.V.M.

38111 US 290

Waller, TX 77484

Telephone (936)931-2244

www.walkervethospital.com



FLUDROCORTISONE ACETATE

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Fludrocortisone acetate belongs to the family of medicines called steroids. It is classified as a corticosteroid. The body naturally produces similar steroids, which are necessary to maintain the balance of certain minerals and water for good health. This medication has been used for the treatment of Addison's disease (adrenocortical insufficiency). It has also been used as adjunctive therapy when there is an excess of potassium in the blood.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian.
READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time(s) each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed.
- **DO NOT** give the medicine more often than directed and for a longer period of time 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?

- Side effects are rare. They generally occur if the dosage is excessive or if the medication is discontinued too rapidly. Side effects may include high blood pressure, water retention, and low potassium levels or muscle weakness.
- Contact your veterinarian if you notice frequent urination, urinary incontinence or excessive thirst.
- 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, even if a drug interaction may occur. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with fludrocortisone acetate: potassium-depleting diuretics (e.g. hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide).
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

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