

# Fluticasone (Inhalation)

(floo-ti-ka-sonē)

**Category:** Inhaled Glucocorticoid

**Other Names for this Medication:** Flovent®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** 44 micrograms/inhalation, 110 micrograms/inhalation, & 220 micrograms/inhalation in 10.6 g & 12 g aerosol canisters.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ Inhaled steroid; shake canister well before using.
- ▶ Special masks for dogs, cats, and horses are usually used with the canister. Be sure you understand how to use the inhaler with the appropriate mask.
- ▶ Not useful for treating acute bronchospasm (active wheezing or shortness of breath).

## How is this medication useful?

Fluticasone is an inhaled steroid used to treat asthma in cats, chronic cough in dogs, and for recurrent airway obstruction (RAO, heaves) and inflammatory airway disease in horses.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can possibly cause problems when taken with this drug, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ That are having acute bronchospasm (active wheezing or shortness of breath; status asthmaticus).

If your animal matches either of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the risks versus the benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

Inhaled steroids usually cause fewer side effects than when these drugs are injected (given by shot) or given orally (by mouth).

### Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Sore throat (uncommon). If this sign is severe, worsens or continues to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Although unlikely, long-term, high doses of this drug could cause "Cushingoid" effects. If you see greater thirst and need to urinate, increased appetite, weight gain, pot belly, skin or coat changes, hair loss, or weakness, contact your veterinarian.

## If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

One-time overdoses of this drug are unlikely to cause significant harm. Animals that chew on the canister may accidentally puncture it and release its contents into your pet's mouth. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

## How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ When using the aerosol inhalation, a special mask is usually used to fit over the face of the animal to allow more medication to reach the lungs. Your veterinarian will instruct you on the best way to use these products.
- ▶ Cats can be difficult to treat using the aerosol as they may dislike the taste and the hissing sound when the medication is administered.
- ▶ Practice using the mask on your animal first without using the medication so that they will get used to it and be more likely to accept it when the medication is given.
- ▶ Shake the aerosol container well before each use.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to accept the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

#### **What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

#### **How should I store this medication?**

- ▶ The aerosol for inhalation should be stored between 36°F to 86°F (2°C to 30°C); protect from freezing and direct sunlight. Store canister with the mouthpiece down.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

#### **Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?**

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

#### **How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?**

- ▶ Empty aerosol canisters may be disposed of in the household trash.
- ▶ Do not save left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

#### **What other information is important for this medication?**

- ▶ Fluticasone is not useful for treating acute bronchospasm (active wheezing or shortness of breath).
- ▶ Fluticasone for inhalation is also available in dry-powder form, but only the liquid aerosols are appropriate for use in animals.
- ▶ If you are seeing a different veterinarian than usual, be sure to tell him or her your animal is receiving this drug. Animals that require surgery or are stressed from trauma or illness may require additional glucocorticoid drugs.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

**If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**