

# Ferrous sulphate

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called ferrous sulphate. It may have a trade name such as Feospan or Feograd, but often will just be called ferrous sulphate.

## What is ferrous sulphate?

Ferrous sulphate is a mineral supplement that contains iron.

## Why has my pet been prescribed ferrous sulphate?

Some animals develop an iron deficiency that can result in a decreased ability to form new red blood cells, causing anaemia. This is sometimes called 'iron-deficiency anaemia'. Animals with this condition can make new red blood cells when given an iron supplement.

## How should I store ferrous sulphate?

Ferrous sulphate tablets should be stored at room temperature in the container provided, which is either blister packaging or tight, light-resistant containers. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children and pets.**

## How do I give ferrous sulphate tablets to my pet?

This supplement should be given by mouth. The tablets can be given directly into the mouth on the back of the tongue so that they will be swallowed. Absorption is improved if given at least 1 hour before feeding.

## How long will my pet need to take ferrous sulphate?

Your vet will tell you how long your pet will need iron supplementation and this could be for the short or long term. Your vet may need to check your pet's red blood cell count to make that determination.

## What should I do if I run out of tablets?

If you run out of this supplement, you should contact your vet, who has a good understanding of your pet's conditions and the reasons for iron supplementation.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, you can either give the dose straight away and re-establish the correct dosing interval or wait until the next dose is due. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

Contact your vet immediately for advice. Overdoses can cause severe irritation to the lining of the gastrointestinal tract and may lead to ulcers which can be life-threatening.

## Can my pet take ferrous sulphate if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if your pet is receiving other medications. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. There are certain drugs (e.g. chloramphenicol, tetracyclines, penicillamine and antacids) which decrease the absorption of ferrous sulphate.

## What are the possible side effects of ferrous sulphate for my pet?

Oral ferrous sulphate can cause nausea, vomiting, constipation and diarrhoea. You may also note that your pet's stools become dark (even black) in appearance.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking ferrous sulphate?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should stop giving this supplement and contact your pet's vet as soon as possible.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

As iron supplements are commonly used in people, immediate medical attention is not usually necessary. However, individuals should contact their GP for further information.

## Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this supplement or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and can provide further information on ferrous sulphate.

### The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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