

# Fluticasone

- 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 fluticasone. It may have a trade name such as Flixotide®, but often will just be called fluticasone.

## What is fluticasone?

Fluticasone is an inhaled steroid that has anti-inflammatory properties. It helps to keep the air passages of the lungs open, making it easier for your pet to breathe.

## Why has my pet been prescribed fluticasone?

Fluticasone is used to treat airway problems resulting from chronic inflammation, such as chronic bronchitis and asthma. Once given, fluticasone can provide fast relief and, if given regularly, can help to prevent attacks of breathlessness.

## How should I store fluticasone?

This medicine should be stored at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give fluticasone to my pet?

Fluticasone is administered via inhalers and should be given to your pet using an aerosol chamber and mask designed for veterinary use. Ask your veterinary surgeon for guidance on how to use these devices. It is recommended that the drug be given at the same time or times every day.

## How long will my pet need to take fluticasone?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. In people, fluticasone will only prevent attacks of breathlessness or asthma if it is taken regularly, and this is also likely to be the case for dogs and cats. Therefore, do not stop giving fluticasone to your pet unless instructed to do so by your vet.

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

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more fluticasone from your vet if your supply is getting low. Missing a dose may cause signs of your pet's disease to return. If you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

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

If a dose is missed, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next scheduled dose. **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** if your pet receives an overdose of fluticasone as higher doses increase the risk of side effects.

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

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they know. This includes herbal and off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. No information is available on whether fluticasone interacts with other drugs in dogs and cats. There may be a mild additive effect if fluticasone is given with other steroids.

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

Fluticasone may cause increased appetite and thirst, panting, poor coat quality, hair loss and a pot-bellied appearance. However, since the drug is inhaled and acts locally, these signs are likely to be far less marked than for steroids given by mouth or injection, and might not be noticeable. If you are concerned about side effects or your pet shows any unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

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

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and the inhaler (even if it is empty) with you.

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

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about fluticasone.

### 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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