

## CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Updated: **January 2021**

# Metoclopramide

- **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.**

### What is metoclopramide?

Metoclopramide belongs to a group of drugs that promote gastrointestinal motility.

### Why has my pet been prescribed metoclopramide?

Vets use metoclopramide most commonly to manage vomiting and poor gastrointestinal motility.

### How should I store metoclopramide?

Metoclopramide tablets should be kept in tight, light-resistant containers at room temperature. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

### How do I give metoclopramide tablets to my pet?

The medication should be given by mouth. The tablets can be either given directly into the mouth on the back of the tongue so that they will be swallowed, or in some strongly flavoured food.

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

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer metoclopramide for. This can be given short or long term.

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

If you run out of medication you should contact your vet who has a good understanding of your pet's conditions and the reasons for prescribing metoclopramide.

### 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 intervals or wait until the next dose is due. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

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

**Contact your vet immediately for advice.** Overdoses can cause agitation, uncoordinated walking, tremors and vocalization; these effects are usually transient and disappear when treatment is stopped.

### Can my pet take metoclopramide if I am already giving them other medications?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet other medications. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop or pharmacy. The effects of metoclopramide may decrease (e.g. cimetidine, digoxin) or increase (e.g. oxytetracycline) drug absorption. The neurological effects of metoclopramide may be enhanced by some narcotic analgesics or sedatives.

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

Metoclopramide can cause agitation, uncoordinated walking, tremors and vocalization. Diarrhoea is another possible side effect. Other side effects are uncommon.

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

Stop the medication and contact your vet as soon as possible.

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

If a person accidentally takes the medication you should go to a local hospital or contact a local doctor immediately and take the medication or empty container 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 further information on metoclopramide.

### 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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