

## CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

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# Trimethoprim/ Sulphonamide

- **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 a potentiated sulphonamide and may be called trimethoprim/sulphonamide, trimethoprim/sulfadiazine or trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole. It may have a trade name, but often will just be called trimethoprim/sulphonamide.

### What is trimethoprim/sulphonamide?

Trimethoprim and sulphonamides are antibiotic medications that block the synthesis of bacterial folic acid. Together, they are called potentiated sulphonamides as they block different steps. This decreases the likelihood of antibiotic resistance developing.

### Why has my pet been prescribed trimethoprim/sulphonamide?

Potentiated sulphonamides are used to treat infections of the respiratory tract, skin and urinary tract. Infections at other sites caused by susceptible organisms may also be treated. Potentiated sulphonamides are considered first-line antibiotics and should be used instead of critically important antibiotics that are normally reserved for use in people.

### How should I store trimethoprim/sulphonamide?

Trimethoprim/sulphonamide has no special storage requirements. It should not be stored in the fridge. **For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

### How do I give trimethoprim/sulphonamide to my pet?

The medication is available as tablets and as a liquid suspension. The medication should be given by mouth. The tablets can either be given directly into the mouth on the back of the tongue, so that they will be swallowed, or hidden in some strongly flavoured food.

### How long will my pet need to take trimethoprim/sulphonamide?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the medication for. Usually this medication is used to provide short term treatment of infectious conditions.

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

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 trimethoprim/sulphonamide.

### 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 gastrointestinal signs.

### Can my pet take trimethoprim/sulphonamide if I am already giving them other drugs?

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.

### What are the possible side effects of trimethoprim/sulphonamide for my pet?

Trimethoprim/sulphonamide can cause fever (a high temperature), decreased tear production (dry eye), liver damage and (rarely) can provoke an allergic reaction causing joint pain or decreased numbers of red blood cells or platelets. Certain breeds of dog (e.g. Dobermann pinscher) are particularly sensitive to this medication.

### What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking trimethoprim/sulphonamide?

Please contact your vet as soon as possible.

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

This medication is used in humans. However, 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 want to know more about this medication you should contact your vet who has a good understanding of your pet's conditions and the reasons for prescribing trimethoprim/sulphonamide.

#### 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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