

CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Updated: **January 2021**

Famciclovir

- **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 famciclovir. It may have a specific trade name such as Famvir, but often will just be called famciclovir.

What is famciclovir?

Famciclovir belongs to a group of drugs called anti-virals. These inhibit viral replication.

Why has my pet been prescribed famciclovir?

Vets use famciclovir most commonly to manage infection with feline herpes virus (FHV).

How should I store famciclovir?

Famciclovir has no special storage requirements. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give famciclovir 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 famciclovir?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the famciclovir for. Long courses are often required.

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 famciclovir.

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.

Gastrointestinal signs may be observed even with standard doses. There is little information available about overdosing in cats.

Can my pet take famciclovir 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.

What are the possible side effects of famciclovir for my pet?

Famciclovir can cause gastrointestinal signs. In humans, long term treatment can cause low white blood cell levels and renal failure.

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

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 famciclovir.

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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