

**Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic**  
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## **CEPHALEXIN (CEPHALOSPORINS)**

### ***Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?***

Cephalosporins are a group of antibiotics used to treat infections caused by gram positive and gram negative bacteria. Cephalosporins are most commonly used to treat respiratory, skeletal, urinary, skin and soft tissue infections.

### ***How do I give this medication?***

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.**
- If using the liquid form of this medication, shake well before measuring the dose and measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Give this medication for as long as prescribed by your veterinarian, even if it appears the pet is feeling better. This will help to ensure the infection is all cleared up.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed.
- **DO NOT** give the medicine more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.



### ***What if I miss giving a dose?***

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

### ***How do I store this medicine?***

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store capsules and tablets in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- The liquid medication should preferably be stored in the refrigerator. Keep the liquid medicine from freezing. Discard any unused liquid once outdated.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

### ***What are the potential side effects?***

- Cephalexin may cause stomach upset, vomiting and diarrhea. If stomach upset occurs, try giving the medication with food. These symptoms may go away during treatment. If these symptoms continue, contact your veterinarian.
- Adverse effects with cephalosporins have a relatively low frequency and are usually not serious.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

### ***Are there any possible drug interactions?***

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving your pet.
- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with cephalexin: aminoglycosides, penicillin, chloramphenicol, probenecid, and oral anticoagulants.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

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*This client information sheet is based on material written by Rita Ozolins, B.Sc., Phm.  
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