

Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic
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AMITRIPTYLINE

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Amitriptyline has been prescribed to treat separation anxiety in your dog or to treat excessive grooming, urine spraying or anxiety in cats. This medication may also be used to prevent itching in dogs, to treat neuropathic pain or to decrease the signs of urinary tract inflammation in cats. Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.**
- If the medicine is a liquid, measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed and do not give more often than directed.
- **DO NOT** stop giving this medication to your pet unless directed by your veterinarian. Call your veterinarian ahead of time if your pet needs a refill.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.
- It may take several weeks before effects of the medication are noted.



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 this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- 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?

- The most noted side effects include drowsiness, dry mouth, urine retention, constipation and a faster heart rate.
- Your pet may experience some excitement, disorientation, hyperactivity and stomach upset. If these symptoms persist, contact your veterinarian.
- Other noted symptoms: seizures, tremors and irregular heartbeat.
- Notify your veterinarian if symptoms are troublesome and continue.
- 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 or supplements you are giving to your pet.
- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, even if a drug interaction may occur. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with amitriptyline: amitraz, selegiline, barbiturates, sedatives, epinephrine, norepinephrine, antithyroid drugs (medicine for an over active thyroid), and cimetidine.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

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