

## CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

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# Hydroxyzine

- **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 hydroxyzine. It may have a trade name such as Aterax or Ucerax, but often will just be called hydroxyzine.

### What is hydroxyzine?

Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine.

### Why has my pet been prescribed hydroxyzine?

Vets use hydroxyzine most commonly to manage allergic disease in dogs and cats.

### How should I store hydroxyzine?

Hydroxyzine should be stored at room temperature in tight, light-resistant containers. Avoid freezing all liquid products. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

### How do I give hydroxyzine tablets or liquid 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 hydroxyzine?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer hydroxyzine for.

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

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 hydroxyzine.

### 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.** Adverse effects can include dilated (wide) pupils, dry gums, constipation, urinary retention and dry eyes. Higher dosages may cause sedation or excitement or a high heart rate.

### Can my pet take hydroxyzine 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 hydroxyzine for my pet?

Side effects are uncommon however can include wide pupils, dry gums, constipation, urinary retention, and dry eyes, sedation, excitement or a high heart rate.

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

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 hydroxyzine.

### 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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