

Famotidine

(fa-moe-ti-deen)

Key Information

- Used to treat or decrease stomach acid.
- Works best when given about 30 minutes before meals.
- Usually well tolerated but side effects may include vomiting, decreased appetite, diarrhea, or constipation.

Note: The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

Description

- Antacid belonging to the class of histamine-2 blockers
- Available as tablets, capsules, and oral suspensions

Other common names

Pepcid

Uses

This medication is not FDA-approved specifically for animals, but it is approved for use in humans. At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in other species (extra-label), such as for:

- Decreasing stomach acid in dogs, cats, and other species to help treat conditions like gastrointestinal ulceration or acid reflux

Before this medication is given

No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian:

- Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking
- Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past
- Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past
- The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing

Warnings for animals

Do **not** use:

- In animals that are allergic to this medication

Use with **caution**:

- In animals with kidney disease

Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication.

Warnings for humans

- Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How do I give this medication?

- Give on an empty stomach about 30 minutes before meals. If your animal vomits after receiving this medication on an empty stomach, give with a treat or a small amount of food.
- Shake liquids well before each dose.
- Measure liquids using an oral syringe, medicine cup, or dosing spoon. Do not use household measuring devices.

Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.

Side effects

Famotidine is usually well tolerated. Possible side effects include:

- Vomiting
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Decreased appetite

Contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time.

How will I know it's working?

- Your animal should start feeling better within 1 to 2 days. Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.

How long will the medication effects last?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose. • It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney function.
How long do I give it for?	This medication can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. You may need to refill the prescription.
Overdose	<p>If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (consultation fee applies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435 • Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661 <p><i>Have the product or label with you if possible.</i></p>
Missed dose	<p>In most cases, if you miss a dose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule. <p>If it is close to the time for the next dose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skip the missed dose. • Give the next dose at the next scheduled time. • Continue the regular dosing schedule. <p><i>If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up or give extra doses.</i></p>
Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store in the original container at room temperature. • Protect from light. • Keep out of reach of children and animals.
Disposal	<p>Liquid forms should be thrown away 30 days after mixing with water.</p> <p>Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. Options for disposing of unused or expired medications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Drug take-back sites</u>: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities. • <u>Home disposal</u>: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal in a plastic bag, and throw away in the trash. <p><i>Do not save leftover medication or give it to others to use.</i></p>
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.