

Cephalexin Capsules

Uses

Cephalosporins are broad spectrum bactericidal antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections of the skin, urinary tract, respiratory tract, bones and joints. Cefadroxil is the most commonly prescribed, FDA approved medication used to treat dogs and cats. It is a commonly accepted practice by veterinarians, however, to use other forms of cephalosporin, such as **cephalexin**, which is not FDA approved for use in dogs and cats.

Availability

Cephalosporins are prescription medications available as tablets, capsules, oral suspension and injectable.

How this medicine should be used

The usual dose of cephalexin in dogs and cats is 10-30 mg/kg, every 6 to 12 hours orally. For pyoderma, the dosage is 22-35 mg/kg every 12 hours orally. Cephalexin is not absorbed orally in horses.

Side effects

The side effects when using cephalosporins, which may include loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea, are rare. Allergic reactions such as itching, rash and difficulty breathing may occur. Side effects in dogs may also include drooling, rapid breathing and excitability. Fever and vomiting are additional side effects that may occur in cats.

Special precautions

This medication should not be used in animals allergic to penicillin or cephalosporins. Use with caution in pregnant and nursing animals. Use with caution in animals when given with probenecid or aminoglycosides such as neomycin and gentamicin. Use with caution when given with other drugs that may affect the kidneys. Always tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what other medications your pet is taking.

In the event of an overdose

Contact your veterinarian or veterinary emergency room. Symptoms of overdose may include vomiting and diarrhea

Storage

Keep tablets and capsules in the container they came in, tightly closed. Store at room temperature, away from excess heat, light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. After mixing with water, the oral suspension should be kept in the refrigerator and any unused portion should be discarded after 14 days. Shake well before use. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.