

# Cyproheptadine

Periactin® is another name for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- Cyproheptadine is an antihistamine used to stop itching in dogs and cats.
- Cyproheptadine can also be used to stimulate appetite in cats, and sometimes dogs
- Cyproheptadine is sometimes used to help other asthma medications work better in cats. It is not usually helpful by itself for asthma.

## Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Cyproheptadine is cleared from the body by the liver and kidneys. It should be used very carefully in pets with liver or kidney disease.
- Cyproheptadine has effects on the smooth muscles of the body. It should be used with caution in pets with prostate problems, glaucoma, problems with urination, bladder stones, heart problems and obstructions in the intestinal tract.
- Cyproheptadine should be used with caution with certain flea and tick collars and dips. These products may cause cyproheptadine to become toxic.
- Cyproheptadine has not been proven to be safe in pregnancy and should probably not be used in pregnant or nursing animals.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

## What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Cyproheptadine can sometimes cause sedation, dry mouth, and constipation. It also causes appetite stimulation in cats and is used for this effect in some instances.
- Cats and horses may be stimulated by cyproheptadine.
- Large doses can cause severe effects such as very rapid heartbeat, inability to urinate, fever and possibly seizures and death.

## How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist, who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- If you miss a dose of this medication, you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose, as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Dogs: Dogs usually receive cyproheptadine orally two or three times daily.
- Cats: Cats usually receive cyproheptadine once or twice daily.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- All products should be protected from light and moisture and should not be frozen. Some compounded solutions may require refrigeration.
- If your animal is scheduled to have allergy tests, you should stop giving cyproheptadine for one week before the tests.

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### References:

Lifeline Inc.  
Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook