

# Famotidine

Pepcid® is another name for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

Famotidine is used to decrease acid secretion in the stomach, protect against the formation of ulcers, and treat ulcers of the esophagus, stomach and small intestine.

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

Famotidine should be used carefully in animals with heart disease as it may cause irregular heart beats in these animals.

Famotidine should also be used carefully in animals with liver and kidney disease as the drug is removed from the body by these organs and may become toxic if these organs are not working properly. If used in animals with these problems, dose and/or frequency may be reduced.

Famotidine is generally safe and effective. However, it has sometimes caused damage to the red blood cells when given intravenously to cats. If your cat appears to have blood in its urine after receiving famotidine IV, you should notify your veterinarian immediately.

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?

There are few side effects associated with famotidine, but some animals may experience loss of appetite and tiredness. If your pet experiences these side effects, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## How Should It Be Given?

Famotidine should be given on an empty stomach, as giving with food will allow acid secretion in response to food, before the drug starts to work.

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.

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.

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.

Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally or as an injection under the skin once to twice daily.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

Famotidine tablets should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.

Famotidine injection and oral liquids should be stored in a refrigerator.

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### References:

*Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook*