

Chlorpromazine

Thorazine® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Chlorpromazine is a member of the phenothiazine drugs and is primarily used to stop vomiting in animals. It also can be used for sedation.

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

- Chlorpromazine should be used very carefully in animals with liver disease, heart disease or general lack of well-being.
- Chlorpromazine can cause the blood pressure to drop severely and should be used carefully in animals with pre-existing low blood pressure.
- Chlorpromazine and other phenothiazines have caused seizures in animals who are epileptic or have a history of seizures.
- 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?

- Chlorpromazine and other phenothiazines can cause sedation in all animals.
- Chlorpromazine can cause very low blood pressure and dogs seem to be most likely to suffer from this effect.
- When given to male animals, phenothiazines can cause the penis to protrude and the animal may be unable to retract it for up to 2 hours. Care should be taken to ensure that the animal does not injure its penis while it is protruded.
- Some animals may have an opposite reaction to chlorpromazine and get excited and aggressive.

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.
- 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 as an injection to stop vomiting.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Chlorpromazine should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Chlorpromazine will turn yellowish brown upon exposure to light. Discolored solutions should not be used.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook