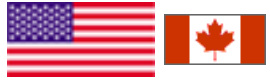


# DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



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## FUROSEMIDE - *Full Version*

**CPN:** 63000458

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

**Furosemide** is a diuretic (water pill) used in cats and dogs. This drug affects electrolyte levels and water balance in the body. It is primarily used to remove excess body fluids in conditions such as heart or lung disease. It may also be used to treat high blood pressure or help with regulation of electrolyte levels. While on this medication, ensure your pet has good access to drinking water as your pet will be thirsty and will need to urinate more frequently. **Furosemide** is available by prescription as tablets, an oral liquid or an injection used by your licensed veterinarian.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- **Furosemide** is a loop diuretic (helps the body lose water via increased urine production)
- **Furosemide** is very potent. Using too much can lead to serious water and salt/mineral loss.
- **Furosemide** is given by mouth
- Your veterinarian may administer injectable **Furosemide** in the clinic and recommend that you follow up with the oral formulation at home

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Because this drug helps remove excessive fluids from the body, it is useful in the treatment of congestive heart failure, pulmonary edema, kidney disease, liver disease and edema
- May be used to assist in the management of systemic hypertension
- May be used to assist in the management of excessive calcium (hypercalcemia) or potassium (hyperkalemia) levels

### ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is labeled for use in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
  - Kidney or liver disease or diabetes mellitus
  - History of calcium oxalate bladder stones
  - Dehydrated pets, pets having difficulty urinating or those with an electrolyte (e.g. calcium or potassium) imbalance
- Safety has not been established in:
  - Pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to **Furosemide** or other sulfa drugs should not be given this medication

## DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of **Furosemide** is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully. Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. The length of use, frequency of administration, and expected improvement is dependent upon your pet's diagnosis, clinical response, and initial reason for use.

Baseline blood work and urinalysis is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug. Periodic blood work and urinalysis will be required to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments or changes to the dosage schedule may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically.

Your pet will likely need to urinate within 30 minutes of taking **Furosemide**. The drug peaks 1-2 hours after administration. Your pet will have to urinate more frequently than normal and accidents are possible.

Ensure your pet has plenty of food and fresh, clean drinking water while taking **Furosemide**. Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

**Furosemide** may cause your pet's skin to be more sensitive to sunlight and sunburn may occur. Keep your pet out of the sun as much as possible.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally give this medication at the same time every day.

### WHAT IF DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

### WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- When will your pet need to be rechecked
- What common signs of heart disease you should be monitoring at home (e.g. respiratory rate)
- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- Risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

### STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Pet owners allergic to sulfonamides and/or other antibiotics should avoid handling this drug.

### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- As with any diuretic, the main side effects are increased thirst and urination
- Electrolyte (salts) imbalances may occur. Your veterinarian may wish periodic blood testing to assess **Furosemide's** effect on your pet.
- High blood sugar levels (may not be a good choice for diabetic patients)
- Weakness or lethargy could indicate potassium levels have dropped too low. Contact your veterinarian if your pet shows these effects.

- Damage to nerves responsible for hearing (especially in cats). If you notice your pet exhibiting a loss of balance or a head tilt, notify your veterinarian immediately.
- Humans with sulfonamide sensitivities have experienced allergic reactions to **Furosemide**. This has not been reported in pets, but if your pet has a sulfonamide allergy, bring it to your veterinarian's attention.
- Restlessness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, itching, rash
- Rare cases of anemia
- Excessive thirst, fatigue, lack of urination, racing heartbeat
- If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

## CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Furosemide** in conjunction with ACE inhibitors (benazepril, enalapril, lisinopril), aminoglycoside antibiotics (amikacin, gentamicin), amphotericin B, cephalosporins, cisplatin, corticosteroids (prednisone, dexamethasone), cyclosporine, desmopressin, digoxin, insulin, non-depolarizing muscle relaxants (atracurium), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), polymyxins, probenecid, salicylates, succinylcholine and theophylline
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Furosemide**
- Furosemide is commonly given in conjunction with other heart medications
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet consumes more than the prescribed amount.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Furosemide** should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to **Furosemide** at regular check ups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving **Furosemide**.

This is just a summary of information about **Furosemide**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Furosemide** or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

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