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## GRISEOFULVIN - *Full Version*

**CPN:** 63000495

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

**Griseofulvin** is an oral antifungal agent used to treat dermatophyte infections in dogs and cats. Dermatophytes are fungi that cause superficial infections of the skin, hair, and claws. This medication is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian in different tablet strengths, as a powder and as an oral suspension.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- Antifungal
- Given by mouth

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To treat fungal conditions of the skin, hair and nails, most notably ringworm

### 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:
  - Cats with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) or Feline Leukemia (FeLV) as **Griseofulvin** might compromise their immune system
  - Liver disease
- Safety has not been established in:
  - Young kittens
  - Breeding or pregnant animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

## DIRECTIONS:

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. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. As long-term therapy is often required, periodic blood work may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. **Griseofulvin** is often given with a fatty meal to reduce stomach upset and increase absorption. Your veterinarian may suggest tablets be given with a fatty food (e.g. butter or cheese).

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days. Treatment is usually for several weeks and should be continued until the patient has been cultured negative. Discontinuing medication too early may cause the disease to recur.

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.

Call ahead for refills.

## 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 tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- Risks and benefits of using this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- What strategies may need to be implemented to prevent re-infection

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.

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Nausea
- If the pet experiences vomiting or diarrhea another medication can be prescribed. If this isn't possible, then an anti-nausea medication may be helpful.
- Kittens can be especially sensitive. Monitor your kitten for signs of weakness, decreased appetite or fever ( $\geq 103^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Contact veterinarian immediately.
- Rare possibility of immune system being compromised in cats
- Can be toxic to the liver (periodic blood tests may be advised)
- Loss of appetite, anemia, depression, weakness
- Skin inflammation and/or sensitivity to sunlight (keep pet out of direct sunlight as much as possible)
- Most of the above effects (except gastrointestinal issues) are unusual with usual dosages
- 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 with alcohol, phenobarbital and coumarin anticoagulants
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Griseofulvin**
- 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 eats 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, **Griseofulvin** 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.

Ringworm will likely recur if a complete course of medication was not performed. **Griseofulvin** should be given until a fungal culture proves to be negative.

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

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