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LACTULOSE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63003143

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This drug is a medication that is used in dogs and cats to help increase the amount of fluid in the colon thereby softening the stool. It can also be used to increase the amount of ammonia that is excreted in the stool. **Lactulose** is available in the form of a powder as well as a syrup.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A disaccharide sugar molecule
- Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To treat constipation
- To treat hepatic encephalopathy

ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This product is used off-label in cats and dogs and should be administered only under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed product in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
 - Diabetes
 - Dehydration or electrolyte imbalances
- Safety has not been established in:
 - Pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this product

DIRECTIONS:

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication.

Periodic blood work to monitor its effects on the body may also be advised if long term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

Ensure that your pet has access to fresh water at all times while using this medication.

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. You should see improvements in your pet's clinical signs.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF A 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 your pet will need to be rechecked
- 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
- What are the 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 medications can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Lactulose should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct light.

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:

- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing cramping, flatulence and diarrhea
- This medication may cause drooling in cats as they do not like the taste of this medication
- This medication may cause dehydration
- If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian
- This moderate-acting medication should stop working in a few days, 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 **Lactulose** in conjunction with: antacids, antibiotics, and other laxatives
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Lactulose**
- 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 receives 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, **Lactulose** should only be given to the pet 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.

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

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