

# Clomipramine

(kloe-mi-pra-meen)

**Category:** Tricyclic Antidepressant; Behavior Modifying Agent

**Other Names for this Medication:** Clomicalm®, Anafranil®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 5 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, & 80 mg tablets.

**Human:** 5 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, & 80 mg tablets.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ May take up to 8 weeks to determine if the drug is effective.
- ▶ May be given with or without food. If your pet vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Most common side effects are drowsiness (sleepiness), dry mouth, and constipation. Be sure your animal has access to plenty of fresh water.
- ▶ Rare side effects, which can be serious: abnormal bleeding, fever, seizures, fast or irregular heartbeat. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see any of these signs.
- ▶ Overdoses can be very serious; keep out of the reach of animals and children.
- ▶ Let your veterinarian know if your animal has worn a flea collar in the past 2 weeks. Do not use a flea and tick collar on your animal while getting this medicine without first talking to your veterinarian.

## How is this medication useful?

Veterinarians may prescribe clomipramine in dogs and cats for a variety of behavior problems such as dominance aggression (ie, threatening behavior/actions), separation anxiety (ie, pet feels anxious when it is away from you), or obsessive-compulsive behaviors (eg, excessive grooming, pacing).

In cats, clomipramine can also treat behaviors such as urine spraying, aggression (ie, threatening behavior/actions) toward other cats or humans and compulsive behaviors (eg, grooming, wool-sucking).

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug (Clomicalm®) for treatment of separation anxiety in dogs that are at least 6 months of age. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing clomipramine in other animal species in certain situations. In some countries, clomipramine is approved for use in cats. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with clomipramine, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.

- ▶ Some ingredients found in flea and tick collars can interact with clomipramine, so let your veterinarian know if your animal has worn one in the past 2 weeks. Do not use one on your animal while it is getting this medicine without first talking to your veterinarian.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or may have had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in:

- ▶ Animals with known allergies to it or other tricyclic antidepressants (eg, imipramine, amitriptyline).
- ▶ Male breeding dogs (manufacturer's recommendation); reduced testicular tissue can occur.
- ▶ Combination with, or within 14 days before or after treatment with, a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (eg, selegiline, amitraz).

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in animals that:

- ▶ Have seizure disorders (eg, epilepsy). The manufacturer recommends that clomipramine not be used in dogs with a history of seizures or that are receiving other drugs that can lower the seizure threshold.
- ▶ Have diabetes, adrenal tumors, glaucoma, dry eye syndrome (ie, keratoconjunctivitis sicca), liver, thyroid, or advanced heart disease.
- ▶ Are aggressive.
- ▶ Have problems urinating or defecating.
- ▶ Are working dogs (eg, guide dogs), as they may become overly sedated (ie, sleepy) and unable to perform their duties.
- ▶ Are old or very young.

If your pet has any of these conditions or signs, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

### Common, but not serious, side effects include:

- ▶ Drowsiness (ie, sleepiness).
- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, or loss of appetite.
- ▶ Dry mouth.
- ▶ Increased thirst.
- ▶ Trouble urinating.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these unless they are severe, are persistent, or worsen. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

### Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Seizures (convulsions), hyperexcitability (over excited), or coma.
- ▶ Racing or irregular heartbeat.
- ▶ Abnormal bleeding.
- ▶ Fever.
- ▶ Cats: Excessive salivation (ie, drooling), unsteadiness, unkempt hair coat (rare).

If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian immediately.

### If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of clomipramine can be very serious. Signs such as vomiting, lack of energy, depression, weakness, and incoordination (eg, stumbling, clumsiness, big (ie, dilated) pupils, vocalization, seizures, elevated body temperature (ie, fever) and cardiac effects (racing or irregular heartbeats) are possible. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ May be given with or without food. If your pet vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of clomipramine must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and to reduce the stress of medication time.
- ▶ If you want to stop giving the medication before the prescription is completed, first contact your veterinarian. There may be an

important reason to continue its use. Clomipramine must be tapered off slowly or your animal may suffer uncomfortable withdrawal signs including vomiting, anxiety, and shaking.

### What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, either 1) give the medication when you remember and then wait the regular time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose or 2) give the medication when it is usually time to give the next dose. Do not double up or give extra doses.

### How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature and protected from direct sunlight.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

### Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

### How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

### What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Like all behavioral treatments, clomipramine usually works best in combination with behavior modification therapy.
- ▶ Because this drug can cause dry mouth, be sure your animal has access to plenty of fresh water at all times.
- ▶ Flea collars that contain amitraz (eg, Preventic®) may interact with clomipramine. While your animal is receiving clomipramine, only use flea collars that your veterinarian recommends. Let your veterinarian know if your animal has worn a flea collar in the past 2 weeks.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

**If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**