

# Lysine

(lye-seen)

**Category:** Amino Acid Nutritional Supplement

**Other Names for this Medication:** L-Lysine

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 250 mg/1.25 mL oral gel; soft-chew oral treats that range from 42 to 500 mg lysine per treat; oral powder. **Human:** There are many products available including tablets and capsules that usually range from 250 mg to 1000 mg.

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

- ▶ Nutritional agent that can be tried to suppress feline herpesvirus-1 infections in cats. Not a cure.
- ▶ Mix with a small amount of soft, moist food unless veterinarian tells you not to do so.
- ▶ Side effects are not likely. Diarrhea is possible.
- ▶ Treatment may be long-term.

## How is this medication useful?

Lysine can be tried to suppress FHV-1 (feline herpesvirus-1) infections in cats.

Lysine is considered a nutritional supplement by the FDA; therefore, it does not evaluate lysine products for safety or efficacy. Use only products recommended by your veterinarian. 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 this drug, 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.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has 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.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

Lysine, mixed with food, is not likely to cause any side effects. Diarrhea is possible. If it is severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

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

Oral overdoses of lysine are unlikely to be harmful, but if you witness or suspect an overdose and your animal is showing unusual symptoms, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

- ▶ The drug is best mixed with food. If using tablets, crush them before mixing with food.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ Patients are usually on this medication for a long time, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

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

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

## How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Unless otherwise specified on the label, lysine should be stored in the original bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature.
- ▶ 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?**

- ▶ Lysine products may be disposed of 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?**

- ▶ 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.**