

Pheromones (Dogs, Cats)

(fer-i-mones)

Category: Pheromone Behavior Modifier

Other Names for this Medication: Feliway®, D.A.P.®, Comfort Zone®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Diffuser, spray bottle, collar. **Human:** None.

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

- ▶ Used to treat behaviors associated with stress and anxiety.
- ▶ Administered to dogs and cats by sprays, diffusers, and collars.
- ▶ Appears to be safe with no known side effects.

How is this medication useful?

Pheromones are used as animal behavior modifiers. Veterinarians may prescribe pheromones for cats to treat urine spraying or marking, vertical scratching, avoidance of social contact, loss of appetite, stressful situations, and inter-cat aggression (threatening behavior or actions). For dogs, pheromones may be used to treat behaviors associated with fear or stress (eg, separation anxiety, destruction, excessive barking, house soiling, licking), phobias, or calming the dog in a new environment or situation. Behavioral modification and/or additional medication may be necessary. 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. It is very important to discuss the following things with your veterinarian so together you can make the best decisions for treating your animal.

- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Pheromones are not taken directly but are placed in animal's environment, so side effects are not likely to occur.

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

It is unlikely that this medication would cause problems, but if you witness or suspect an overdose, and your animal is showing side effects 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 **AS-PCA 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, use it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are using the product correctly.

- ▶ *Diffusers:* One vial usually last about 4 weeks and covers 500-650 square feet. Plug diffuser into electric outlet in the room most used by the animal. Do not cover diffuser or place behind or under furniture. When plugged in, do not touch diffuser with wet hands or metal objects. Do not touch diffuser with uncovered hands during or immediately after use. May require up to 72 hours to saturate area, so effects may not be immediate. (Label information; Feliway® Diffuser, D.A.P.® Diffuser – VPL)
- ▶ *Spray for cats:* Do not spray directly on cats. Pump spray approximately 4 inches from site, 8 inches from the floor. Spray 8-10 pumps, 1-2 times daily for 30 days, around areas of urine marking and prominent objects (furniture, window, or doorframes). Maintenance sprays every 2-3 days may be required. If cat is observed rubbing its own facial pheromones onto a spot, treatment is no longer necessary at that location. (Label information: Feliway® Spray – Ceva)
- ▶ *Spray for dogs:* Do not spray directly on dogs. May spray in car, kennels, crates, carriers, or on neck bandanas. Spray approximately 20 minutes prior to travel or when anticipated stress could occur. When entering unfamiliar places or rooms, spray twice daily in the area. (Label information: Adaptil® Spray – Ceva)

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

If you miss the time scheduled to spray, spray it when you remember, but if it is very close to the time for the next scheduled time, spray and skip the next scheduled time you missed and go back to the regular spray schedule.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store as directed on the product label, usually at room temperature. Always keep medications out of reach of children and animals.
- ▶ Do not mix with other ingredients or substances.

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, pheromones usually work best in combination with behavior modification therapy.
- ▶ Use of pheromones 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.