

Fluralaner

(floor-ah-lan-er)

Category: Agent to Treat & Control Fleas & Ticks

Other Names for this Medication: Bravecto®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 112.5 mg, 250 mg, & 500 mg topical solution for cats; 112.5 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg, 1000 mg, & 1400 mg flavored chews and topical solution for dogs. **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 pet. If you have other questions or need more information, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Used to prevent or treat flea and tick infestations in dogs and cats. May be prescribed for other external parasites.
- ▶ Doses are given every 3 months for most pets; some animals may require dosing every 2 months.
- ▶ Usually no side effects when administered correctly.
- ▶ Ticks may still be found on your animal, but will die quickly and before transmitting disease or laying eggs.

How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved fluralaner for use in dogs and cats for treating and preventing flea and tick infestations. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. 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 to my pet?

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 medication, 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 animal 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 did not 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 fluralaner in your animal.

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

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it.
- ▶ Kittens less than 6 months old or weigh less than 2.6 lb (1.2 kg).
- ▶ Puppies less than 6 months of age or weigh less than 4.4 lb (2 kg).

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That have a seizure disorder, or a history of seizures (convulsions).

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite.
- ▶ Hair loss (with topical product).

If any of these are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

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

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this drug to work properly, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

Oral Form

- ▶ The oral form of this drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach. If your animal 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.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reduce the stress of medication time for both you and your animal.

Topical Form (from the Bravecto® [fluralaner topical solution] label)

- ▶ **Step 1:** Immediately before use, open the pouch and remove the tube. Hold the tube at the crimped end with the cap in an upright position (tip up). The cap should be rotated clockwise or counter clockwise one full turn. The cap is designed to stay on the tube for dosing and should not be removed. The tube is open and ready for application when a breaking of the seal is felt.
- ▶ **Step 2:** The dog should be standing or lying with its back horizontal during application. Part the fur at the administration site. Place the tube tip vertically against the skin between the shoulder blades of the dog.
- ▶ **Step 3:** Squeeze the tube and gently apply Bravecto in one or more spots starting between the shoulder blades and continuing along the dog's back. Avoid applying an excessive amount of solution in any one spot which may cause some solution to run or drip off of the dog.

- ▶ Bathing or water immersion after administration will not reduce the effectiveness of this product against fleas and *Ixodes ricinus* ticks.
- ▶ Treatment with this product may begin at any time of the year and can continue year round without interruption.
- ▶ Patients are usually on fluralaner for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give fluralaner 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 my animal a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before the next dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription packaging at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (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?

- ▶ Use of fluralaner 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 fluralaner, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.