

# Nitenpyram

(nye-ten-pye-rum)

**Category:** Agent to Control Fleas

**Other Names for this Medication:** Capstar®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** Oral Tablets: 2-25 lbs (11.4 mg) & 26-125 lbs (57 mg).

**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

- ▶ Oral medication that kills adult fleas. May also work for maggot infestations.
- ▶ Tolerated well in dogs and cats. Give with food to avoid stomach upset. Can be dosed daily to weekly.
- ▶ Serious side effects are rare.
- ▶ All animals in the household must be treated at the same time.

## How is this medication useful?

Nitenpyram kills adult fleas on the skin of dogs and cats. Nitenpyram does not kill ticks, flea eggs, larvae, or immature fleas. Fleas begin to fall from treated animals about 30 minutes after dosing, and a single dose can protect animals for 1-2 days. Nitenpyram may also be effective for treating fly larvae (maggots).

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for control of adult fleas in dogs and cats 4 weeks of age and older and greater than 2 lb body weight. 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?

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 cause problems when taken 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 or similar 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 patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to nitenpyram.
- ▶ That weigh less than 2 lb.
- ▶ That are less than 4 weeks old.

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

- ▶ Between 4 and 8 weeks old.
- ▶ In poor health or body condition (eg, very thin).

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?

Nitenpyram is usually tolerated well in cats and dogs.

### **Side effects that usually are not serious include:**

- ▶ Cats and Dogs: Itchiness is the most common side effect, especially as fleas begin to die. The itchiness usually wears off over time.
- ▶ Cats: Hyperactivity (eg, nervousness, agitation), trembling, panting, lack of energy, vocalization, vomiting, decreased appetite, diarrhea.
- ▶ Dogs: Lack of energy, vomiting, decreased appetite, diarrhea, hyperactivity (eg, nervousness, trembling), vocalization.

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

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

Serious side effects, including death, are more likely in animals weighing less than 2 pounds, are less than 8 weeks of age, and/or in poor body condition.

- ▶ Cats: Trouble breathing, excessive salivation (drooling), incoordination (eg, stumbling, clumsiness), weakness, seizures, dilated (big) pupils.
- ▶ Dogs: Incoordination (eg, stumbling, clumsiness), seizures, excessive panting, hives, salivation.

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?**

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: **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.

- ▶ Nitenpyram is best given after a meal.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. 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 and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another 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 container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ 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 as this product can be very toxic to fish and wildlife. 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 left over 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.**