

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

Theophylline

Common Drug Name

Theophylline

Common Brand Names

Theo-24, Theolair

Generic products are available.

Storage

Refrigerate oral suspensions and gummie chews, as directed. Store other forms at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Protect from extreme heat or freezing.

Uses

Theophylline is a bronchodilator, which relaxes the airways and makes breathing easier. It is used to treat asthma, heart failure, and certain lung conditions (e.g., pulmonary edema).

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once. If you are uncertain whether to give a dose, contact your veterinarian.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

May cause loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or nervousness at the beginning of treatment. These side effects usually disappear after a short time. If they do not, or your pet has a rapid heartbeat, or an increase in appetite, drinking or urination, contact your veterinarian.

May cause seizures at high doses. If so, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to theophylline or xanthines, including theobromine and caffeine.

Use caution when using theophylline in very young or obese animals; animals who are older or debilitated; or those that have severe heart disease, irregular heart beats, stomach ulcers, hyperthyroidism, liver or kidney disease, hypoxia (lack of oxygen to the cells), high blood pressure, or a history of seizures.

May cause or worsen abnormal heart rhythms.

Do not allow the timed-release forms to be chewed or broken, as that would release large amounts of the medication at one time.

Do not change brands without consulting a veterinarian as different brands may have different absorption rates in different animals.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing that may be recommended prior to and during treatment with theophylline.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using theophylline with phenobarbital, phenytoin, cimetidine, erythromycin, allopurinol, thiabendazole, clindamycin, lincomycin, lithium carbonate, pancuronium, beta-blockers (certain heart medications such as propranolol), ciprofloxacin, enrofloxacin (Baytril[®]), ephedrine, halothane (an inhalant anesthetic gas), and ketamine, since interactions may occur. Always advise your veterinarian of any supplements you are giving your pet, including vitamins.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see seizures, fever, or rapid and irregular heart rates.

An overdose can be fatal.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.