![pet's choice PHARMACY logo]

DRUG INFORMATION: **Amitriptyline** also known as Elavil®

Why is this prescribed for your pet?

Amitriptyline is used to help alleviate separation anxiety and to help reduce anxiety during other stressful events such as thunderstorms or fireworks. This medication can also be useful in stopping some bad behaviors such as excessive biting and chewing of the skin, and urine spraying. Amitriptyline is also used in birds to stop behavior problems such as feather picking.

Storage:

In tablet and capsule form, this medication should be stored at room temperature. Liquid forms of this medication should be stored exactly as your pharmacist has recommended and discarded by the expiration date on the bottle. It should be kept away from all children and other household pets, overdoses of amitriptyline can be very serious in both humans and animals.

How to use this medication:

- For maximum effectiveness, be sure to administer this medication exactly as your veterinarian prescribed it. Do not skip doses and do not stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty administering the medication, consult your veterinarian or pharmacist.

- This medication can interact with other drugs. Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any and all food and drugs you currently give your animal. Consult your veterinarian before giving your animal any new food or drugs.

- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats are usually given this medication once or twice daily. It may take several weeks for behavioral changes to occur. Do not skip doses. If you miss a dose, do not double doses. When the desired outcome is reached with this medication, it must be tapered off slowly or the animal may suffer from symptoms of withdrawal.

- Birds: Most birds will receive a liquid form of the medication that should be stored exactly as the pharmacist has recommended.

- Horses: Amitriptyline is banned by the AHSA and should not be used in horses that will be shown or raced.

Side Effects:

- The most common side effects experienced with amitriptyline are drowsiness, constipation, and dry mouth.

- In diabetic patients, this medication can cause blood sugar to either increase or decrease.

- Very high doses of this medication can cause severe damage to the heart.

Additional Information:

- When mixed with certain chemicals, such as those found in tick collars, amitriptyline may cause dangerous side effects.

- Do not use this drug in pregnant animals, it has caused birth defects.

- This medication should not be given to nursing animals because it can cross into mother's milk.

- This medication should be used with caution in diabetic animals, as it may alter their insulin requirements. If this medication is suddenly stopped after being given regularly for an extended period of time, the animal will likely experience vomiting, anxiety, and shaking.

- If your animal has any of the above conditions, speak with your veterinarian about the risks and benefits of using amitriptyline.

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