

**Dechra Veterinary Products**

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## Felimazole® Coated Tablets for Cats

Species:	Cats
Therapeutic indication:	Pharmaceuticals: Hormones and therapeutically related products: Others
Active ingredient:	Methimazole, Thiamazole
Product:	Felimazole® Coated Tablets for Cats
Product index:	Felimazole Coated Tablets for Cats

### Qualitative and quantitative composition

**Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats:** 1 tablet contains: Active substance:

Thiamazole 1.25 mg

Excipients: Titanium dioxide [E171] 0.51 mg

Dispersed Ponceau 4R Lake [E124] 1.35 mg

**Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats:** 1 tablet contains: Active substance:

Thiamazole 2.5 mg

Excipients: Titanium dioxide [E171] 1.12 mg

Erythrosine [E127] 0.01 mg

Sodium methyl parahydroxybenzoate [E219] 0.0034 mg

**Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats:**

1 tablet contains: Active substance:

Thiamazole 5 mg

Excipients: Titanium dioxide [E171] 0.495 mg

Beta carotene [E160a] 0.16 mg

### Pharmaceutical form

**Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats:** Red sugar-coated biconvex tablets, 5.5 mm diameter.

**Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats:** Pink sugar-coated biconvex tablets, 5.5 mm diameter.

**Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats:** Orange sugar-coated biconvex tablets, 5.5 mm diameter.

### Clinical particulars

## Target species

Cats.

## Indications for use

For the stabilisation of hyperthyroidism in cats prior to surgical thyroidectomy. For the long-term treatment of feline hyperthyroidism.

## Contraindications

Do not use in cats suffering from systemic disease such as primary liver disease or diabetes mellitus.

Do not use in cats showing signs of autoimmune disease.

Do not use in animals with disorders of white blood cells, such as neutropenia and lymphopenia.

Do not use in animals with platelet disorders and coagulopathies (particularly thrombocytopenia).

Do not use in cats with hypersensitivity to thiamazole or the excipient, polyethylene glycol.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating females.

Please refer to *Use during pregnancy and lactation*.

## Special warnings for each target species

As thiamazole can cause haemoconcentration, cats should always have access to drinking water.

## Special precautions for use in animals

If more than 10 mg per day is required animals should be monitored particularly carefully.

Use of the product in cats with renal dysfunction should be subject to careful risk:benefit assessment by the clinician. Due to the effect thiamazole can have on reducing the glomerular filtration rate, the effect of therapy on renal function should be monitored closely as deterioration of an underlying condition may occur.

Haematology must be monitored due to risk of leucopenia or haemolytic anaemia.

Any animal that suddenly appears unwell during therapy, particularly if they are febrile, should have a blood sample taken for routine haematology and biochemistry. Neutropenic animals (neutrophil counts  $<2.5 \times 10^9/l$ ) should be treated with prophylactic bactericidal antibacterial drugs and supportive therapy.

Please refer to *Amounts to be administered and administration route* for monitoring instructions.

## Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals

Wash hands after use.

In the case of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice immediately and show the package insert or the label to the physician. Thiamazole may cause vomiting, epigastric distress, headache, fever, arthralgia, pruritus and pancytopenia. Treatment is symptomatic.

Wash hands with soap and water after handling litter used by treated animals.

Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling the tablet or used litter.

Do not handle this product if you are allergic to anti-thyroid products. If allergic symptoms develop, such as a skin rash, swelling of the face, lips or eyes or difficulty in breathing, you should seek medical attention immediately and show the package leaflet or label to the doctor.

Do not break or crush tablets.

As thiamazole is a suspected human teratogen, women of child-bearing age and pregnant women should wear gloves when handling litter of treated cats. Pregnant women should wear gloves when handling the product.

## Adverse reactions

Adverse reactions have been reported following long term control of hyperthyroidism. In many cases, signs may be mild and transitory and not a reason for withdrawal of treatment. The more serious effects are mainly reversible when medication is stopped.

Adverse reactions are uncommon. The most common clinical side effects that are reported include vomiting, inappetence/anorexia, lethargy, severe pruritus and excoriations of the head and neck, bleeding diathesis and icterus associated with hepatopathy, and haematological abnormalities (eosinophilia, lymphocytosis, neutropenia, lymphopenia, slight leucopenia, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia or haemolytic anaemia). These side effects resolve within 7-45 days after cessation of thiamazole therapy.

Possible immunological side effects include anaemia, with rare side effects including thrombocytopenia and serum anti-nuclear antibodies, and, very rarely, lymphadenopathy can occur. Treatment should be stopped immediately and alternative therapy considered following a suitable period for recovery.

Following long-term treatment with thiamazole in rodents, an increased risk of neoplasia in the thyroid gland has been shown to occur, but no evidence is available in cats.

## Use during pregnancy and lactation

Laboratory studies in rats and mice have shown evidence of teratogenic and embryotoxic effects of thiamazole. The safety of the product was not assessed in pregnant or lactating cats. Do not use in pregnant or lactating females.

## Interactions

Concurrent treatment with phenobarbital may reduce the clinical efficacy of thiamazole.

Thiamazole is known to reduce the hepatic oxidation of benzimidazole wormers and may lead to increases in their plasma concentrations when given concurrently.

Thiamazole is immunomodulatory, therefore this should be taken into account when considering vaccination programmes.

## Amounts to be administered and administration route

For oral administration only.

For the stabilisation of feline hyperthyroidism prior to surgical thyroidectomy and for the long term treatment of feline hyperthyroidism, the recommended starting dose is 5 mg per day.

Standard dose adjustments should be made in increments of 2.5 mg and the aim should be to achieve the lowest possible dose rate.

Wherever possible, the total daily dose should be divided into two and administered morning and evening. Tablets should not be split.

If, for reasons of compliance, once daily dosing with a 5 mg tablet is preferable, then this is acceptable although the 2.5 mg tablet given twice daily may be more efficacious in the short term. The 5 mg tablet is also suitable for cats requiring higher dose rates.

Haematology, biochemistry and serum total T<sub>4</sub> should be assessed before initiating treatment and after 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 10 weeks, 20 weeks, and thereafter every 3 months. At each of the recommended monitoring intervals, the dose should be titrated to effect according to the total T<sub>4</sub> and to clinical response to treatment. Dose adjustments should be made in increments of 2.5 mg and the aim should be to achieve the lowest possible dose rate.

If more than 10 mg per day is required animals should be monitored particularly carefully. The dose administered should not exceed 20 mg/day.

For long term treatment of hyperthyroidism the animal should be treated for life.

#### **Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats:**

1.25 mg tablets are intended for use in cats that require particularly small doses of thiamazole, and to assist with dosage adjustments.

## Overdose

In tolerance studies in young healthy cats, the following dose-related clinical signs occurred at doses of up to 30 mg/animal/day: anorexia, vomiting, lethargy, pruritus and haematological and biochemical abnormalities such as neutropenia, lymphopenia, reduced serum potassium and phosphorus levels, increased magnesium and creatinine levels and the occurrence of anti-nuclear antibodies. At a dose of 30 mg/day some cats showed signs of haemolytic anaemia and severe clinical deterioration. Some of these signs may also occur in hyperthyroid cats treated at doses of up to 20 mg per day.

Excessive doses in hyperthyroid cats may result in signs of hypothyroidism. This is however unlikely, as hypothyroidism is usually corrected by negative feedback mechanisms. Please refer to *Adverse reactions*.

If overdosage occurs, stop treatment and give symptomatic and supportive care.

## Pharmacological particulars

*Pharmacotherapeutic group:* Antithyroid preparations: Sulphur-containing imidazole derivatives.

*ATCvet code:* QH03BB02

## Pharmacodynamic properties

Thiamazole acts by blocking the biosynthesis of thyroid hormone *in vivo*. The primary action is to inhibit binding of iodide to the enzyme thyroid peroxidase, thereby preventing the catalysed iodination of thyroglobulin and T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> synthesis.

## Pharmacokinetic properties

#### **Felimazole 1.25 mg and 5 mg coated tablets for cats:**

Following oral dosing in healthy cats, 5 mg thiamazole is rapidly and completely absorbed with a bioavailability of >75%. However, there is a considerable variation between animals. Elimination of

the drug from cat plasma is rapid with a half-life of 4.5-5.0 hours. Peak plasma levels occur approximately 1-2 hours after dosing.  $C_{max}$  is between 1.6-1.9  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

#### **Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats:**

Following oral dosing in healthy cats, thiamazole is rapidly and completely absorbed with a bioavailability of >75%. However, there is a considerable variation between animals. Elimination of the drug from cat plasma is rapid with a half-life of 3.5-4.0 hours. Peak plasma levels occur approximately 1-2 hours after dosing.  $C_{max}$  is approximately 0.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

#### **All strengths:**

In rats thiamazole has been shown to be poorly bound to plasma protein (5 %); 40% was bound to red blood cells. The metabolism of thiamazole in cats has not been investigated, however, in rats thiamazole is rapidly metabolised in the thyroid gland. About 64% of the administered dose being eliminated in the urine and only 7.8% excreted in faeces. This is in contrast with man where the liver is important for the metabolic degradation of the compound. The drug residence time in the thyroid gland is assumed to be longer than in the plasma.

From man and rats it is known that the drug can cross the placenta and concentrates in the foetal thyroid gland. There is also a high rate of transfer into breast milk.

## Pharmaceutical particulars

### Shelf life

Shelf life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale:

**Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats:** Tablet container: 3 years. Blister: 3 years

**Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats:** Tablet container: 3 years. Blister: 3 years

**Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats:** Tablet container: 5 years. Blister: 3 years

### Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25°C.

Tablet container: Keep the container tightly closed in order to protect from moisture. Keep the container in the outer carton.

Blister: Keep the blister strips in the carton.

### Immediate packaging

Tablet container: White polypropylene tub with white low density polyethylene tamper evident lid containing 100 tablets.

Blister: Transparent PVC/Aclar - aluminium blister. Blister strips contain 25 tablets. Each carton contains 4 blister strips.

### Disposal

Any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from such veterinary medicinal products should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## Marketing Authorisation Holder (if different from distributor)

Dechra Limited, Snaygill Industrial Estate, Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2RW, United Kingdom.

## Marketing Authorisation Number

Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats: Vm 10434/4082

Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats: Vm 10434/4050

Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats: Vm 10434/4061

## Significant changes

## Date of the first authorisation or date of renewal

Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats: 17 September 2013

Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats: 19 November 2004

Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats: 22 January 2002

## Date of revision of the text

Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats: May 2018

Felimazole 2.5 mg coated tablets for cats: May 2018

Felimazole 5 mg coated tablets for cats: May 2018

## Any other information

For animal treatment only. To be supplied only on veterinary prescription. Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

## Legal category

Legal category: POM-V

## GTIN

GTIN description: Felimazole 1.25 mg Coated Tablets for Cats:

GTIN: 05701170330298

GTIN description: Felimazole 2.5 mg Coated Tablets for Cats:

GTIN: 05055031410477

GTIN description: Felimazole 5 mg Coated Tablets for Cats:

GTIN: 05055031410651