



Amitriptyline

For behaviour problems, itching and nerve pain

Your vet has prescribed amitriptyline for your pet. It changes the levels of natural chemical messengers in the brain, helping with mood and blocking some pain and itch signals. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

What is it used for?

- Helping with anxiety and some behaviour problems.
- Treating long-term nerve pain or itchy skin.
- In cats, sometimes used for recurring bladder inflammation (cystitis).

How quickly does it work?

- Some effects are seen in days, but it usually takes 3 to 4 weeks to see the full benefit.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says, usually with food.
- It can take a few weeks to see the full effect, so keep going.
- Tablets are very bitter, so hide them well or use a pill pocket. Don't crush them for cats.

What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.
- Don't stop this medicine suddenly unless your vet tells you to.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Sleepiness is the most common side effect, especially at first.
- Dry mouth, constipation or difficulty peeing.
- Changes in appetite or weight.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Your vet may check blood tests and heart health in older pets or with long-term use.

Important things to know

- Don't use with some flea collars or dips (those containing amitraz) or with some other behaviour or pain medicines, like tramadol.
- Tell your vet if your pet has heart disease, glaucoma, seizures or diabetes.
- Don't stop it suddenly. Your vet will advise on reducing it.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

Your questions answered

- **Will it change my pet's personality?** No. It should help your pet feel calmer, not different.
- **Is it safe for cats?** Yes, when prescribed. Cats need carefully measured doses.

Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet has a very fast heartbeat, shaking, a high temperature or seems confused.
- Your pet can't pee or collapses.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Patience pays off with this one. Behaviour medicine works best alongside a training plan, so ask us about ours!