



Zidovudine

An antiviral for cats with FIV

Your vet has prescribed zidovudine for your pet. It stops FIV copying its genetic material, which can reduce the amount of virus in the body. 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 to manage feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) in cats with symptoms, such as mouth inflammation.

How quickly does it work?

- Improvement in symptoms is judged over weeks.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says, with or without food.
- Wear gloves to handle it and wash your hands afterwards.

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.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Anaemia (low red blood cells) is the most important side effect.
- Reduced appetite or vomiting.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Regular blood tests are essential, especially in the first few weeks.
- Blood cell counts are checked weekly at first, then monthly.

Important things to know

- Anyone pregnant should not handle it.
- Keeping FIV-positive cats indoors helps protect them and other cats.
- 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 cure FIV?** No, but it may improve symptoms and quality of life.
- **Can my cat go outside?** Keeping FIV cats indoors is safest.

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

- Your cat is pale, weak or breathless.
- Your cat stops eating or seems unwell.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

FIV cats can live long, happy lives. Good dental care, a great diet and regular check-ups are the magic ingredients.