**Benadryl For Cats – Uses, Dosage and Side Effects**

**Uses**

Benadryl (active ingredient *diphenhydramine hydrochloride*) is an over the counter antihistamine used to treat allergies in people. It is also a recognised medication for cats and dogs to help with the following conditions:

- Allergies
- Insect bites and stings
- Rashes
- Skin irritations
- Motion sickness
- Nasal congestion
- **Mast cell tumours**

The medication works by blocking the effects of histamine, a compound released by cells which caused many of the symptoms of allergies such as a runny nose and itchy skin.

**Benadryl dosage for cats**

1 milligram (mg) per pound, or 2 mg per kilo, twice a day. Due to the bitter taste, some cats will be reluctant to medicate, a compounding pharmacy make a preparation to flavour the drug which makes it more palatable for cats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pounds</th>
<th>Kilos</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.6 lbs</td>
<td>3 kg</td>
<td>6 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 lbs</td>
<td>3.5 kg</td>
<td>7 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.8 lbs</td>
<td>4 kg</td>
<td>8 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9 lbs</td>
<td>4.5 kg</td>
<td>9 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 lbs</td>
<td>5 kg</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1 lbs</td>
<td>5.5 kg</td>
<td>11 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2 lbs</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
<td>12 mg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Always check with your veterinarian before giving any medications to your cat and check the packaging to determine the strength of the medication.

There is no specific cat Benadryl, the medication for cats is the same as the medication for people and is available from any chemist. There may be generic versions of Benadryl (which is a registered trademark of Johnson and Johnson). Make sure the only active
ingredient is *diphenhydramine hydrochloride* as some preparations may also contain more than one active ingredient which can lead to serious poisoning in cats.

**Precautions and side effects**

Any medication can have side effects, if your cat experiences any of the following, contact your veterinarian for advice:

- Urinary retention (decreased urination)
- Sedation (grogginess)
- Dilated pupils
- Foaming at the mouth, due to the bitter taste
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Hyperexcitability
- Loss of appetite

Do not give Benadryl to cats who are allergic to diphenhydramine hydrochloride.

Benadryl may react with the following medications:

- Selegiline
- Epinephrine
- Heparin sodium or calcium
- Warfarin sodium
- Amitraz
- Furazolidone

Do not give Benadryl to cats with the following conditions:

- Glaucoma
- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Heart disease
- Hyperthyroidism
- High blood pressure

Check with your veterinarian before administering Benadryl to a pregnant or lactating cat.

**How is Benadryl supplied?**

Benadryl comes in tablet, oral liquid or injectable form.

Oral tablets: 10 mg, 12.5 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg.

Oral liquid: 12.5 mg per 5ml.

Injectable: 50 mg per millilitre.

Please add your comments below.