

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup>SMITH<sup>®</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander, WI 54501  
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021

### Furosemide

(Lasix, Salix, Disal)

#### Common Drug Name

Furosemide

#### Common Brand Names

Lasix, Salix, Disal

Generic products are available.

#### Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

#### Uses

Furosemide is a diuretic used in many species to remove excess fluid from the body. Used to treat congestive heart failure, some other heart diseases, pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs), certain kidney diseases, high blood pressure, high potassium level in the blood, ascites (fluid in the abdomen), and certain kinds of tissue edema (swelling).

#### Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. Dosage, frequency, and duration of treatment vary with each disease, disease severity, and response to treatment. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

May be given with or without food.

If using the transdermal gel, apply to the skin as directed by your veterinarian.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

#### Possible Side Effects

May include dehydration with excessive thirst and increased or decreased urine production; or electrolyte imbalances (e.g., low sodium, potassium, or calcium), often with rapid

heart rate, weakness, depression, vomiting, and restlessness. If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Less commonly may see an increase in blood glucose (sugar) level; anemia, resulting in pale gums, tiredness, or weakness; a decrease in white blood cells, making the animal more susceptible to infections; and stomach or intestinal disorders, with vomiting or diarrhea.

Cats: May affect hearing or balance, or cause a tilt of the head.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

Animals who eat and drink normally are less likely to experience side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

#### Precautions

Not for use in animals who are hypersensitive (allergic) to it or sulfa drugs (furosemide is chemically similar to some sulfa drugs).

Furosemide will cause your pet to urinate more often. Your pet may have more "accidents" and need to go outside or use the litter box more.

Use with caution in animals with kidney disease and diabetes mellitus.

Do not use in animals with anuria (inability to produce urine), progressive kidney disease, electrolyte imbalances, water loss (dehydration), liver disease, diabetes mellitus, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Your pet needs to eat and drink well while taking furosemide or the risk of side effects increases. Contact your veterinarian, if your pet is not eating or drinking well.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with furosemide.

#### Human Precautions

People with hypersensitivities (allergies) to sulfa drugs should not handle furosemide, or wear gloves and use extreme caution if they do, since allergic reactions could occur just from contact.

#### Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using furosemide with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, corticosteroids (prednisone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone), amphotericin B, insulin, probenecid, sulfapyridazine, gentamicin, other aminoglycoside antibiotics, digoxin, enalapril, theophylline, or NSAIDs such as aspirin, deracoxib (Deramaxx), etodolac (EtoGesic), meloxicam (Metacam), carprofen (Novox or Rimadyl), firocoxib (Previcox), tepoxalin (Zubrin), since interactions may occur.

#### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May include hearing loss, electrolyte imbalances, dehydration, lethargy, coma, seizures, heart failure/collapse, and kidney damage, with increased thirst and urination.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

*Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.*