Clotrimazole

- **Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.**
- **Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.**
- **This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.**

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called clotrimazole. It may have a trade name such as Canesten or Lotriderm, but often will just be called clotrimazole.

What is clotrimazole?

Clotrimazole belongs to a group of medicines called triazole antifungals. These drugs are used to treat fungal infections.

Why has my pet been prescribed clotrimazole?

Clotrimazole is used to treat a range of internal and external fungal infections in veterinary patients. These include dermatophytosis (a fungal skin infection also known as 'ringworm'), aspergillosis (a fungal infection that can affect the nasal passages of dogs) and candidiasis (a yeast infection, sometimes found in the ears and on the skin).

How should I store clotrimazole?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. It is fine to be stored at room temperature, away from light. For safety, *all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.*

How do I give clotrimazole to my pet?

Clotrimazole can either be dispensed as a topical cream or as ear drops. With the topical formulation, apply a small quantity to the affected area, using gloves, and massage gently. If being used for a fungal ear infection, instil 3–5 drops into the affected ear and massage the base of the ear. Wash away any medication that may have come into contact with your skin under lukewarm water.

How long will my pet need to take clotrimazole?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that you complete the course of treatment even if your pet seems to be well. If your pet is still unwell at the end of the course, then you should contact your vet as soon as possible.

What should I do if I run out of clotrimazole?

Try to ensure that you have enough medication in advance of it running out. However, if you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

Contact your vet immediately if your pet receives an overdose of clotrimazole.

Can my pet take clotrimazole if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

What are the possible side effects of clotrimazole for my pet?

Topical use of clotrimazole may cause skin irritation or redness, whilst administration in the ear can cause excessive head shaking and redness around the ear. Contact your vet if you notice that, on using ear drops, your pet's head is tilted to one side. This usually occurs on the side of the affected ear land makes your pet disorientated and unstable when walking; in extreme cases this can cause seizures. There is a risk of liver damage and it is therefore advisable to watch your pet for signs such as increased drinking, general fatigue or yellow colouration in the eyes. Your vet may also want to carry out blood tests. If your pet shows *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking clotrimazole?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, they should contact their doctor *immediately*. This leaflet along with any remaining medication and its containers (even if they are empty) should be taken with them.

Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and further information on clotrimazole.

The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.