

# Felimazole®

## 1.25 mg Coated tablets for cats Thiamazole



### Marketing authorisation holder:

Dechra Limited, Dechra House,  
Jamage Industrial Estate,  
Talke Pits, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire, ST7 1XW, UK.

### Manufacturer responsible for batch release:

Dales Pharmaceuticals,  
Snaygill Industrial Estate,  
Keighley Road, Skipton,  
North Yorkshire, BD23 2RW, UK.

### Name of the veterinary medicinal product:

Felimazole 1.25 mg coated tablets for cats  
Thiamazole (Methimazole)

### Statement of the active substance and other ingredients:

1 Tablet contains: Active substance: Thiamazole (Methimazole) 1.25 mg  
Excipients: Titanium dioxide (E171), Dispersed ponceau 4R lake (E124) Red sugar-coated biconvex tablets, 5.5 mm diameter.

**Indications:** For the stabilisation of hyperthyroidism in cats prior to surgical thyroidectomy. For the long-term treatment of feline hyperthyroidism.

**Contraindications:** Do not use in cats suffering from systemic disease such as primary liver disease or diabetes mellitus.

Do not use in cats showing signs of autoimmune disease.

Do not use in animals with disorders of white blood cells, such as neutropenia and lymphopenia.

Do not use in animals with platelet disorders and coagulopathies (particularly thrombocytopenia).

Do not use in cats with hypersensitivity to thiamazole or the excipient, polyethylene glycol.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating females.

Please refer to 'Special warnings'.

**Adverse reactions:** Adverse reactions have been reported following long-term control of hyperthyroidism. In many cases, signs may be mild and transitory and not a reason for withdrawal of treatment. The more serious effects are mainly reversible when medication is stopped.

Adverse reactions are uncommon. The most common clinical side effects that are reported include vomiting, inappetence/anorexia, lethargy, severe pruritus and exoriations of the head and neck, bleeding diathesis and icterus associated with hepatopathy, and haematological abnormalities (eosinophilia, lymphocytosis, neutropenia, lymphopenia, slight leucopenia, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia or haemolytic anaemia). These side effects resolve within 7-45 days after cessation of thiamazole therapy.

Possible immunological side effects include anaemia, with rare side effects including thrombocytopenia and serum anti-nuclear antibodies, and, very rarely, lymphadenopathy. Treatment should be stopped immediately and alternative therapy considered following a suitable period for recovery.

Following long-term treatment with thiamazole in rodents, an increased risk of neoplasia in the thyroid gland has been shown to occur, but no evidence is available in cats.

If you notice any serious effects or other effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your veterinary surgeon.

**Target species:** Cats.

**Dosage for each species, route and method of administration:** For oral administration only.

For the stabilisation of feline hyperthyroidism prior to surgical thyroidectomy, and for the long-term treatment of feline hyperthyroidism, the recommended starting dose is 5 mg per day.

Standard dose adjustments should be made in increments of 2.5 mg and the aim should be to achieve the lowest possible dose rate.

Wherever possible, the total daily dose should be divided into two and administered morning and evening. Tablets should not be split.

If, for reasons of compliance, once daily dosing with a 5 mg tablet is preferable, then this is acceptable although the 2.5 mg tablet given twice daily may be more efficacious in the short-term.

The 5 mg tablet is also suitable for cats requiring higher dose rates. 1.25 mg tablets are intended for use in cats that require particularly small doses of thiamazole, and to assist with dosage adjustments.

Haematology, biochemistry and serum total T4 should be assessed before initiating treatment and after 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 10 weeks, 20 weeks, and thereafter every 3 months.

At each of the recommended monitoring intervals, the dose should be titrated to effect according to the total T4 and to clinical response to treatment. Dose adjustments should be made in increments of 2.5 mg and the aim should be to achieve the lowest possible dose rate.

If more than 10 mg per day is required animals should be monitored particularly carefully.

The dose administered must not exceed 20 mg/day. For long-term treatment of hyperthyroidism the animal should be treated for life.

### Advice on correct administration:

Follow the dosing instructions and timing of follow-up visits advised by your veterinary surgeon.

**Withdrawal period:** Not applicable.

**Special storage precautions:** Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Keep the container tightly closed in order to protect from moisture.

Do not use after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton after EXP.

Keep the container in the outer carton.

**Special warnings:** As thiamazole can cause haemoconcentration, cats should always have access to drinking water.

**Special precautions for use in animals:** If more than 10 mg per day is required animals should be monitored particularly carefully. Use of the product in cats with renal dysfunction should be subject to careful risk : benefit assessment by the clinician. Due to the effect thiamazole can have on reducing the glomerular filtration rate, the effect of therapy on renal function should be monitored closely as deterioration of an underlying condition may occur.

Haematology must be monitored due to risk of leucopenia or haemolytic anaemia.

Any animal that suddenly appears unwell during therapy, particularly if they are febrile, should have a blood sample taken for routine haematology and biochemistry. Neutropenic animals (neutrophil counts < 2.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/l) should be treated with prophylactic bactericidal antibacterial drugs and supportive therapy.

**Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals:**

Wash hands after use.

In the case of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice immediately and show the package leaflet or the label to the physician.

Thiamazole may cause vomiting, epigastric distress, headache, fever, arthralgia, pruritus and pancytopenia. Treatment is symptomatic.

Wash hands with soap and water after handling litter used by treated animals.

Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling the tablet or used litter.

Do not handle this product if you are allergic to antithyroid products. If allergic symptoms develop, such as a skin rash, swelling of the face, lips or eyes or difficulty in breathing, you should seek medical attention immediately and show the package leaflet or label to the doctor.

Do not break or crush tablets. As thiamazole is a suspected human teratogen, women of child-bearing age should wear gloves when handling litter of treated cats. Pregnant women should wear gloves when handling the product.

**Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay:**

Laboratory studies in rats and mice have shown evidence of teratogenic and embryotoxic effects of thiamazole. The safety of the product was not assessed in pregnant or lactating cats.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating females.

**Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction:**

If your cat is being treated with any other medications advise your veterinary surgeon prior to the use of Felimazole.

Concurrent treatment with phenobarbital may reduce the clinical efficacy of thiamazole. Thiamazole is known to reduce the hepatic oxidation of benzimidazole wormers and may lead to increases in their plasma concentrations when given concurrently.

Thiamazole is immunomodulatory, therefore this should be taken into account when considering vaccination programmes.

**Overdose (symptoms, emergency procedures, antidotes):**

In tolerance studies in young healthy cats, the following dose-related clinical signs occurred at doses of up to 30 mg/animal/day: anorexia, vomiting, lethargy, pruritus and haematological and biochemical abnormalities such as neutropenia, lymphopenia, reduced serum potassium and phosphorus levels, increased magnesium and creatinine levels and the occurrence of anti-nuclear antibodies. At a dose of 30 mg/day some cats showed signs of haemolytic anaemia and severe clinical deterioration. Some of these signs may also occur in hyperthyroid cats treated at doses of up to 20 mg per day.

Excessive doses in hyperthyroid cats may result in signs of hypothyroidism. This is however, unlikely, as hypothyroidism is usually corrected by negative feedback mechanisms. Please refer to the section 'Adverse reactions'.

If overdosage occurs, stop treatment and immediately contact your veterinary surgeon. Give symptomatic and supportive care.

**Special precautions for the disposal of unused product or waste materials:** Any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from such veterinary medicinal product should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

**Date on which the package leaflet was last approved:** September 2013

**Other information:** For animal treatment only. To be supplied only on veterinary prescription. Nature and composition of immediate packaging: White polypropylene tub with white low density polyethylene tamper evident lid containing 100 tablets. Veterinary medicinal product authorised for use in UK and IE.

UK: Vm 10434/4082 **POM-V**  
Prescription Only Medicine - Veterinarian

IE: VPA 10799/015/003 **POM**  
Prescription Only Medicine

For any information about this veterinary medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the marketing authorisation holder.

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