Clomipramine

Clomicalm® and Anafranil® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Clomipramine is primarily used in dogs to help reduce unwanted behaviors such as dominance aggression, separation anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive behaviors such as excessive grooming, pacing, etc.
- It can be used in cats to help reduce unwanted behaviors such as urine marking/spraying, aggression with other cats or people, or compulsive behaviors (grooming, wool-sucking). Dosing tends to be more difficult in cats and they can be more sensitive than dogs to the side effects of this medication.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Clomipramine should not be used in animals who have had prior sensitivity reactions to it or other drugs like it (e.g., amitriptyline).
- Clomipramine could possibly increase the incidence of seizures in animals with epilepsy.
- It should also be used with caution in animals that have problems urinating, decreased gastrointestinal function, heart disease, liver disease, thyroid disease or glaucoma.
- Clomipramine should not be used in animals who are also receiving drugs known as MAO inhibitors (Mitaban®, Preventic®, flea collars, Anipryl®, and isoniazid are a few of these drugs). When clomipramine is given with these drugs it can cause serious increases in blood pressure that can cause death. Aged cheese can also cause this effect, so make sure that your pets do not get into any aged cheese while on this drug. If your pet is receiving any of these medications, your veterinarian will ask you to stop giving them for at least 2-5 weeks before he prescribes clomipramine.
- Working dogs (e.g., guide dogs, search dogs, hunting dogs, sled dogs, rescue dogs) may become overly sedated and unable to perform their duties while on this drug.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- The most common side effects in pets include sleepiness, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most animals will become tolerant to these effects with time and the sleepiness should wear off.
- Dry mouth and difficulty with urinating are also possible side effects.
- Cats may be more likely to develop side effects than are dogs.
- Contact your veterinarian if side effects are severe or persist.

How Should It Be Given?
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. If you have difficulty giving any doses, please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. Consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally one to two times daily as tablets or capsules. Do not give your pet aged cheese or use tick collars while on this drug.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Clomipramine should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Clomipramine should be stored at room temperature.