Fludrocortisone

Florinef® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Fludrocortisone is used to control the signs and symptoms of hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's Disease) in dogs.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Fludrocortisone should not be used in pets that are allergic to it.
- Fludrocortisone may be used in pregnant mothers, however, fludrocortisone gets into the milk. Artificial milk replacer should be started after puppies have nursed colostrum.
- 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?
- Fludrocortisone has very few adverse effects but may be irritating to the stomach. Giving with food can reduce this side effect.
- Too much fludrocortisone can cause high blood pressure and low blood potassium. If your animal seems weak or its legs appear swollen, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

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. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses 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**: Fludrocortisone is usually given orally once daily to dogs. Fludrocortisone is rarely given to cats.
- **Horses**: Fludrocortisone is rarely given to horses.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Fludrocortisone should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Once your pet is controlled on fludrocortisone, your veterinarian may advise that you add salt to the diet to possibly lower the daily dose of fludrocortisone. Do not add salt to your pet's diet without asking your veterinarian.