Griseofulvin

Fulvicin®, Grisactin®, Grifulvin® and Gris-PEG® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Griseofulvin is used to treat fungal conditions such as ringworm in animals.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Because griseofulvin can be toxic to the liver and must be removed from the body by the liver, it should not be used in animals with liver failure or liver disease.
- Kittens are more sensitive to griseofulvin than adult cats and should be monitored carefully while on this drug. If your kitten shows signs of weakness, loss of appetite or fever (>103°F) you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Cats with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) or Feline Leukemia (FeLV) should not be treated with this drug because of an increased risk of anemia occurring.
- Griseofulvin is known to cause serious birth defects in cats. It should not be used in pregnancy as safer, more effective therapies are available.
- Griseofulvin has also been shown to decrease the sperm count and should not be used in breeding males.
- If your pet is being treated for seizures with phenobarbital, a higher dose of griseofulvin may be necessary for treatment. Please tell your veterinarian if your pet is taking any other medications.
- 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?
- Griseofulvin can cause loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, depression, weakness, incoordination and sensitivity to sunlight. If your pet is fair colored or has thin hair or shaved places, you should try to keep it out of direct sunlight for prolonged periods while on this drug.
- Griseofulvin is more likely to cause bone marrow suppression and anemia in cats than in any other species because cats lack the liver enzymes required to efficiently remove it from the body.
- Griseofulvin can cause liver damage and your veterinarian may want to monitor your pet's liver function while on this drug.

How Should It Be Given?
- Griseofulvin should be given with a fatty food to increase the absorption into the bloodstream. It is usually given orally once or twice daily for several weeks.
- Griseofulvin should be given for at least two more weeks after the symptoms have gone away to ensure that the fungus is completely eradicated.
- 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: Griseofulvin is usually given orally once or twice daily to dogs and cats for several weeks.
- Horses: Horses usually receive griseofulvin orally once daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Griseofulvin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Griseofulvin comes in two different forms: microsize and ultramicrosize. The dose for each form is extremely different so you should be sure that your pet is receiving the form that your veterinarian intended, to avoid failure of therapy or toxicity.