

## Antihistamines for Dogs

It has been recommended that your pet be placed on antihistamine therapy to control itching, nasal, and/or ocular discharge. Antihistamines have a very wide safety rating and many humans and pets are on a daily dose for long term therapy.

Contraindications: Antihistamines should not be given to patients with antihistamine allergies, certain types of glaucoma, prostatic hypertrophy, bladder or intestinal obstruction, high blood pressure, or cardiovascular disease.

Adverse Reactions: The most common adverse reaction to antihistamines is sedation and lethargy, but these side effects become less pronounced the further the patient is from initiation of therapy. While this side effect is not usually a problem, it can hinder the performance of working dogs. Additionally, cats can have some paradoxical excitatory episodes.

*Please note: Some antihistamines come as a combination drug with a decongestant. These medications usually have a "D" following the end of the name (i.e. Zyrtec-D). **DO NOT USE DECONGESTANT COMBINATION ANTIHISTAMINES!***

The following is a dosing chart for various over-the-counter antihistamines. If a recommended dose does not seem effective, please contact Hall Veterinary Clinic for further guidance at (989) 731-6208. **Give ONLY ONE of the following options- NOT COMBINATIONS- unless otherwise directed.**

Patient Weight	1-11lbs	12-22lbs	22-33lbs	34-55lbs	55+ lbs
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl 25mg tablets)	¼ to ½ tablet every 8-12 hours	½ to 1 tablet every 8-12 hours	1 tablet every 8-12 hours	2 tablets every 8-12 hours	3-4 tablets every 8-12 hours
Chlorpheniramine (Chlortrimeton 4mg tablets)	1/2 tablet every 8-12 hours	1 tablet every 8-12 hours	2 tablets every 8-12 hours	3 tablets every 8-12 hours	3 tablets every 8-12 hours
Fexofenadine (Allegra)	<b>Children's (30mg)</b> ½ to 2 tablets once daily	<b>Children's (30mg)</b> 2 to 4 tablets once daily	<b>Adult (180mg)</b> ½ to 1½ tablets once daily	<b>Adult (180mg)</b> 1 ½ to 2 ½ tablets once daily	<b>Adult (180mg)</b> 2½ to 4½ tablets once daily
Cetirizine (Zyrtec 10mg tablets)	½ tablet once daily	½ to 1 tablet once daily	1 tablet once daily	2 tablets once daily	3 to 4 tablets once daily
Loratadine (Claritin 10mg tablets)	½ tablet once daily	½ to 1 tablet once daily	1 tablet once daily	1 tablet every 12 hours	1 to 2 tablets every 12 hours

**\*\* Ensure you are getting the correct tablet size when purchasing antihistamines, and that the only ingredient in the medication is the drug listed above.\*\***

