

Fluoxetine is indicated for the treatment of canine and feline aggression, anxiety, and stereotypic, obsessive-compulsive behaviors. Fluoxetine is also given to cats for inappropriate elimination.

Fluoxetine is a highly selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor thereby potentiating the pharmacologic activity of serotonin. In dogs and cats, fluoxetine has anti-anxiety and anticomulsive effects, and may also reduce aggressive behaviors. This medication is most effective when used with a behavior modification program.

Indications for Fluoxetine

- Tail chasing, chasing flies and other obsessive-compulsive disorders
- Excessive licking
- Aggression caused by fear or anxiety, as well as for a dominant, bully dog or cat
- Anxiety, including separation anxiety
- Feline inappropriate elimination
- Thunderstorm phobia
- Canine lick granuloma

Trade Names: Prozac, Reconcile

Dosages:

Dogs: 1–2 mg/kg orally once daily. May use long-term. Continue medication until 2 months after a satisfactory response and then discontinue gradually if possible; behavioral management program should continue. Animals that relapse may resume therapy. Some dogs may require life-long treatment at the lowest effective dose. During seasonal noise fears, may add a benzodiazepine.

Cats:

- For adjunctive treatment of aggression: 0.5–1.5 mg/kg orally once daily.
- To help control urine marking or separation anxiety: 0.5–1 mg/kg (2.5–5 mg per cat) orally once daily.
- To control itching when other treatments have failed: 1–5 mg/cat orally once daily. Re-evaluate treatment after 1-4 weeks. Taper off dose over 6-8 weeks.
- For generalized anxiety disorder: 0.5–1.5 mg/kg orally once daily.

Adverse Reactions:

The most commonly reported adverse effects include: lethargy/depression, decreased appetite, vomiting, shaking, tremor, restlessness, diarrhea, and excessive vocalization (whining); if these are severe or persist, contact your veterinarian. Do not stop this medication abruptly without veterinarian's guidance. Rarely, dogs may develop seizures (convulsion) while receiving this medication; contact veterinarian immediately should this occur.

Potential Drug Interactions:

Bupirone, cyproheptadine, diazepam, diuretics, insulin, Isonizaid, MAO inhibitors (amitraz, selegiline),

pentazocine, phenytoin, propranolol, tramadol, tricyclic antidepressants (clomipramine, amitriptyline), trazodone, and warfarin.

Contraindications/Precaution:

Fluoxetine should not be used in dogs with epilepsy or a history of seizures, and should not be given with drugs that lower the seizure threshold (e.g., acepromazine, chlorpromazine). Fluoxetine is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to it, as well as those receiving monoamine oxidase inhibitors.

Fluoxetine should be used with caution in patients with diabetes mellitus as it may alter blood glucose. Dosages may need to be reduced in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

Because of the long half-life of norfluoxetine, tapering off the drug is probably only necessary when a patient has been on the drug long-term (> 8 weeks)