Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)  
Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Generic Name  
Dimenhydrinate

Brand Name  
Dramamine

Type of Drug  
Antihistamine and antiemetic

Form and Storage  
Tablet and liquid  
Store at room temperature in a tightly closed container.

Indications for Use  
Used to decrease motion sickness in dogs. Can be used in cats, but better choices are available.

General Information  
Not FDA approved for use in veterinary medicine, but it is a common and accepted practice to use dimenhydrinate in dogs and cats. Available over the counter. Dimenhydrinate blocks the input to the brain from the vestibular system (inner ear and balance). Effectiveness for sedation and motion sickness relief may decrease over time.

Side Effects  
May see sedation, dry mouth, and inability to fully empty the bladder. Diarrhea, vomiting, and loss of appetite are less commonly seen.

Contraindications/Warnings  
Do not use in patients who are hypersensitive (allergic) to it or other antihistamines.

Do not use in patients with certain types of glaucoma, prostate disease, stomach or intestinal obstruction, urinary obstruction, certain heart and lung diseases, hyperthyroidism, seizures, or high blood pressure.

Working dogs may be affected by the sedative effect.

May mask symptoms of ear problems.

Not for use in pregnant or nursing animals.

Stop use at least 4 days prior to skin allergy testing.

Drug or Food Interactions  
Increased effects if used with other central nervous system (CNS) depressants or anticholinergic drugs.

May increase the effect of epinephrine. May decrease the effect of anticoagulants.

May have fewer side effects if given with food.

Overdose/Toxicity  
May see excitement or seizures, lethargy, or coma, respiratory depression, or death.

**ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center  
1-888-4ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435). $65.00 per case, billed to caller's credit card.  
There is no charge when the call involves a product covered by the Animal Product Safety Service.**

**Pet Poison Helpline - 24-hour service available throughout North America for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet.  
1-800-213-6680 ($35.00 per incident). Staffed 24 hours a day.**

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.

If you think your pet has been poisoned…  
Contact your veterinarian or one of the Animal Poison Hotlines (listed below) if you think your pet may have accidentally received or been given an overdose of the medication.