## Mar Vista Animal Medical Center

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## **METHIMAZOLE** (Brand Names: Felimazole, Tapazole)

## **STRENGTH:** 2.5 mg Tablets, 5 mg Tablets, 10 mg Tablets. Can be compounded into an oral liquid or even a transdermal gel for use on the skin of the ear.

**ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**: ORAL, most effective when given twice daily. May be given with or without food.

**ACTION OF MEDICATION:** Blocks the production of both inactive and active forms of thyroid hormone.

**MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED:** Lethargy, vomiting or appetite loss occur in approximately 15% of cats. These signs are usually managed by temporarily withdrawing the medication until the cat is normal and beginning at a lower dose, gradually increasing to the desired dose. If side effects have not occurred in the first 3 months of therapy, they will probably not occur.

**SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED:** Liver disease occurs in less than 2% of patients and is generally reversible when medication is discontinued. Bone marrow cell deficiencies can occur (<4% of patients). Severe facial itching can occur (<4% of patients). Any of these signs indicate that the cat cannot tolerate methimazole and another treatment should be selected.

**STORAGE:** Keep away from light and store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate. Compounded product should be stored in accordance with the compounding pharmacies instructions.

**IF YOU MISS A DOSE:** Do not double up on the next dose. Simply give the medication when it is remembered or pick up with the next dose, allowing at least the proper interval between doses according to the label instructions.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Monitoring tests will be recommended with use of this medication. Be sure you understand when you are to return for blood testing. Hidden pre-existing kidney disease can be unmasked by treatment for hyperthyroidism so it is important not to skip these tests.

For a more detailed presentation, visit: