



Congressman Henry Cuellar 28th Congressional District, TX

Nitenpyram: New World Screwworm Treatment for Pets

What is New World Screwworm?

New World Screwworm (NWS) is a serious pest that can affect dogs, cats, livestock, wildlife, and other warm-blooded animals. Adult flies lay eggs in open wounds or body openings. After hatching, the larvae (maggots) feed on living tissue, causing painful wounds that can rapidly worsen if left untreated.

What Are Nitenpyram Tablets?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized use of Nitenpyram Tablets to treat New World Screwworm infestations in dogs and cats. It has long been used to kill adult fleas in pets and is now authorized under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the treatment of New World Screwworm infestations.

Which Pets Can Receive Nitenpyram?

Nitenpyram Tablets may be used in both dogs and cats that are at least 4 weeks old and weigh 2 pounds or more. Do NOT give Nitenpyram to pets weighing less than 2 pounds.

How Does It Work?

Nitenpyram begins working quickly after administration and can kill most screwworm larvae within hours. Because the medication is short-acting, it does not prevent future infestations or protect against reinfestation. Treatment requires an initial dose based on the animal's weight and a second dose administered 6 hours later.

Dosage Information

The tablets are available over the counter in two strengths. If your pet weighs between 2-25 pounds, give the pet the 11.4 mg tablet. If the pet weighs over 25 pounds, give it the 57 mg tablet. Always weigh your pet before administering medication.

How Do I Give My Pet the Medication?

Nitenpyram Tablets can be placed directly in your pet's mouth or hidden in food. If you are unsure whether your pet swallowed the tablet, it is safe to administer another tablet.

Do I Still Need a Veterinarian?

Nitenpyram kills the larvae, but veterinary care remains important. A veterinarian may need to: Remove remaining live or dead larvae from the wound, clean and disinfect the wound, remove damaged or infected tissue, provide pain management and follow-up care, and help prevent reinfestation. Contact a veterinarian as soon as possible if you suspect your pet has a screwworm infestation.

How Can I Get Nitenpyram Tablets?

Nitenpyram Tablets are available over the counter (OTC) and do not require a prescription. Pet owners may be able to obtain them through veterinary clinics, farm and ranch supply stores, pet supply retailers, and authorized online pet medication sellers.

What Should I Do If I Suspect a Screwworm Infestation?

Seek veterinary care immediately. Early treatment can help reduce pain, tissue damage, and complications. Signs may include a wound that is not healing, visible maggots in a wound, foul odor from a wound, increased drainage or bleeding, or excessive licking, scratching, or discomfort. For additional information, consult your veterinarian or visit the FDA's New World Screwworm resources.