

TABLE 3**Oral Antihistamine Doses for Dogs**

Drug Name	Dose
Hydroxyzine	2 mg/kg q 12 hr ¹
Cetirizine	1–2 mg/kg q 24 hr ¹
Chlorpheniramine	0.4 mg/kg q 12 hr ²
Cyproheptadine	0.3–2 mg/kg q 12 hr ²
Clemastine	0.05–1 mg/kg q 12 hr ²
Loratadine	1 mg/kg q 12 hr ²
Fexofenadine	5–15 mg/kg q 24 hr ³
Amitriptyline	1–2 mg/kg q 12 hr ²
Diphenhydramine	2–3 mg/kg q 12 hr ² Questionable efficacy if given orally ⁴

- 1 Bizikova P, Papich MG, Olivry T. Hydroxyzine and cetirizine pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics after oral and intravenous administration of hydroxyzine to healthy dogs. *Vet Dermatol.* 2008;19:348–57.
- 2 Miller WH, Griffin GE, Campbell KL. *Muller & Kirk's Small Animal Dermatology.* 7th ed. St. Louis:Elsevier;2013.
- 3 Plevnik A, Kobal S, Domanjko-Petric A, et al. The efficacy of antihistamine fexofenadine versus methylprednisolone in the treatment of atopic dermatitis in dogs. *Slov Vet Res.* 2009;46:5–12.
- 4 Banovic F, Denley T, Blubaugh A, et al. Effect of diphenhydramine and cetirizine on immediate and late-phase cutaneous allergic reactions in healthy dogs: a randomized, double-blinded crossover study. *Vet Dermatol.* 2020;31:256–e58.

The 2023 AAHA Management of Allergic Skin Diseases Guidelines are available at aaha.org/allergic-diseases.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2023 AAHA.

