



April 17, 2012

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence  
Ministry of Commerce  
Government of India

Gentlemen,

The Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists (SVHP) is a non-profit professional organization comprised of pharmacists caring exclusively for animal patients. Veterinary pharmacists in SVHP perform many clinical and administrative duties in fulfillment of our primary mission of ensuring the best care for animal patients. To that end, the Ruling Council of SVHP respectfully requests that the Government of India consider allowing the continued production of cisapride powder for export to foreign chemical suppliers who provide veterinary patients with this life-saving drug. India is the sole source of cisapride powder for the veterinary world and has graciously exported cisapride powder for use in animals over the last two decades. If cisapride becomes unavailable, many animal patients will die unnecessarily. Cisapride represents the only possible choice of successful therapy in many animal disease states.

The primary use of cisapride is for cats suffering from a gastrointestinal motility disorder known as megacolon. Cisapride allows affected cats to recover a normal gastrointestinal function and to lead high quality lives. There is no other drug that will provide relief for these cats. Veterinary researchers in the United States have also identified cisapride as one of the most valuable prokinetic drugs for use in dogs and horses. When these species suffer gastrointestinal paralysis (ileus) following surgery or colic, cisapride is the one drug that can restore gastric motility. Animals that do not recover gastric function must almost always be humanely put to death.

Cisapride is commonly used and invaluable in small animal exotic practices for rabbits, guinea pigs, and chinchillas. It is literally the difference between life and death in many of these patients and can also prevent major life threatening emergencies in many of these species. For example, patients at high risk for GI stasis (post operatively, during shedding, during periods of stress or after other traumatic or painful events) can be medicated preventatively so they will not have a more serious event in the future.

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Cisapride also has applications within the zoo setting. It has been effectively utilized in lions, primates (macaques), birds (cranes, crested screamers-same order as ducks and geese, parrots), and reptiles (sea turtles). Cisapride has also been used to treat inflammatory bowel disease in nonhuman primates where other treatment modalities have failed (and failure of treatment results in the death of these animals).

Cisapride remains irreplaceable by other medications currently on the market because it works along the entire GI tract rather than just the upper GI tract (such as metoclopramide). Veterinary researchers have attempted for nearly 20 years to discover a prokinetic agent that has efficacy equal to cisapride, but to date, no such drug has been identified. Cisapride may be compounded into oral capsules, suspensions and injections for use in veterinary patients with no apparent adverse effects. Clearly, cisapride efficacy, safety, ease of administration and dosing is unmatched by other medications currently on the market.

We, the officers of the Council of SVHP, have collective veterinary pharmacy practice experience of nearly 175 years. We enter this plea to the Indian Government on behalf of our non-human patients and know from our experience that removal of cisapride from the veterinary therapeutic compendium will result in many unnecessary animal deaths. Through the words of great Indian leaders such as Ghandi, and through the actions of the Indian people, India has always been considered a country of greatness as measured by the way it treats its animals. We are grateful for the many years that India has provided cisapride for animals and ask India to please consider continuing to manufacture cisapride for animal use as a life-saving treatment.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Ruling Council of the Society of Veterinary Hospital Pharmacists  
[www.svhp.org](http://www.svhp.org)