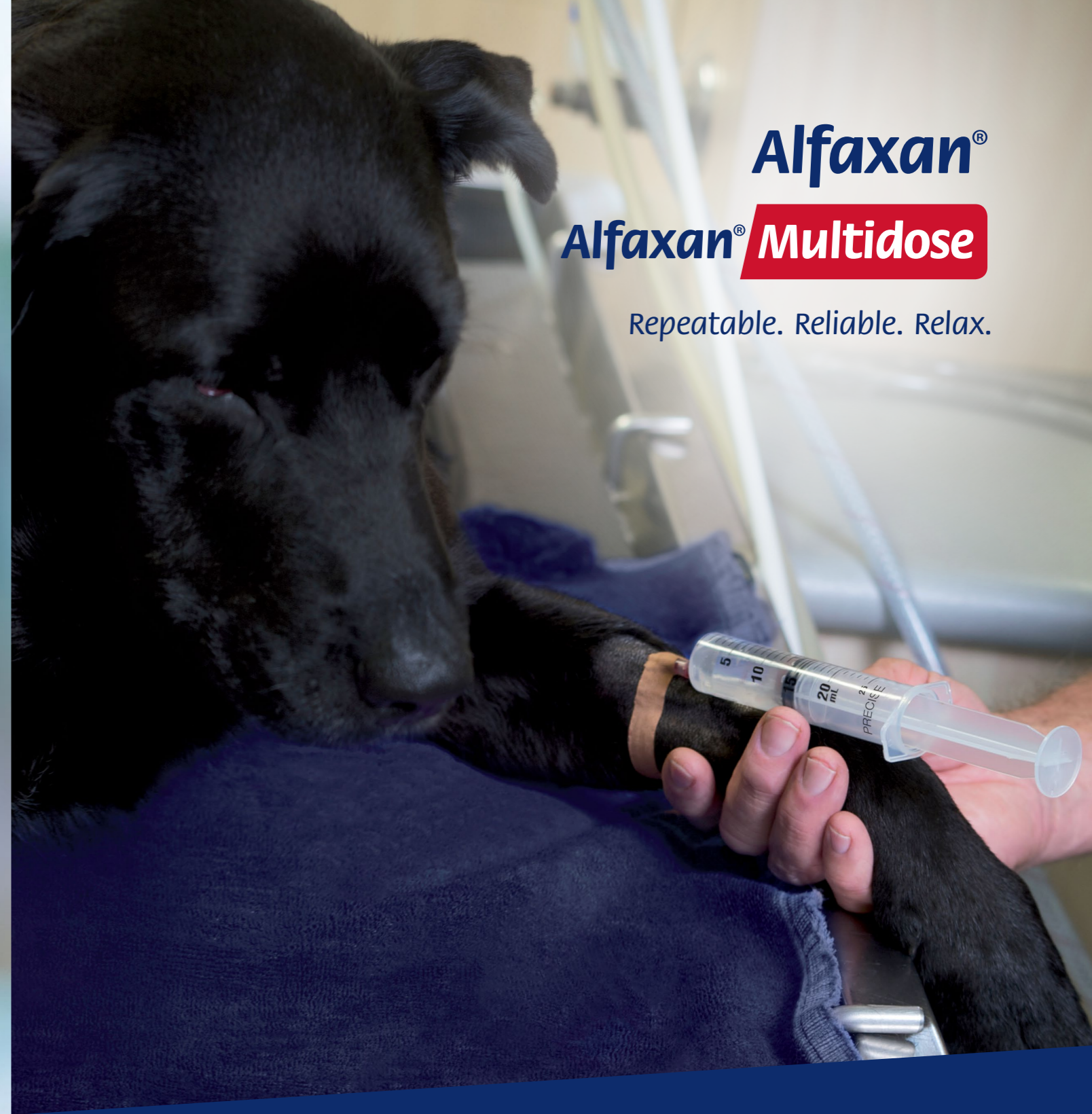


# Alfaxan<sup>®</sup>

## Alfaxan<sup>®</sup> Multidose

Repeatable. Reliable. Relax.



## How to use Alfaxan<sup>®</sup> for optimal results

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Only available under veterinary authorisation



Alfaxan<sup>®</sup> Anaesthetic Injection  
Alfaxan<sup>®</sup> Multidose Anaesthetic Injection

# Use of Alfaxan® for optimal results

**Alfaxan® and Alfaxan® Multidose** Anaesthetic Injections are a 1% (10 mg/mL) aqueous, clear, pH neutral, iso-osmolar solution of alfaxalone in cyclodextrin. **Alfaxan®** contains no preservative. Broached vials can be stored under refrigerated conditions (4°C) for up to 7 days provided contamination is avoided. **Alfaxan®** is available in 10 mL and 20 mL multi-use vials in Australia and New Zealand. **Alfaxan® Multidose** contains a preservative system and broached vials can be stored on the shelf for up to 28 days. **Alfaxan® Multidose** is available in 20 mL multi-use vials.

Both products are registered for induction and maintenance of anaesthesia in cats and dogs.

**Alfaxan®** has a demonstrated wide safety margin. Trials have shown dogs and cats can tolerate repeated overdose (5 times the recommended dose on three occasions) and that dogs have tolerated single overdoses of 10 times the recommended dose, all with no lasting negative effects and only the requirement for respiratory support.<sup>[1-4]</sup>

**Alfaxan®** is marketed globally, including in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, France, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Belgium, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In Australia, where the unpreserved **Alfaxan®** formulation was introduced in the early 2000s, alfaxalone is now used in over 65% of all inductions in dogs, and over 75% of all inductions in cats.<sup>[5]</sup>

**All clinic staff can therefore be comfortable in choosing Alfaxan® or Alfaxan® Multidose for anaesthesia.**

## What is the best way to use Alfaxan® to ensure optimal results?

When choosing **Alfaxan®** or **Alfaxan® Multidose** as an induction agent, optimal results are achieved when it is used as part of a 'balanced anaesthetic' technique. Consider the following components of the anaesthetic process.<sup>[6]</sup>

### 1. Premedication

*Surround your patient with 'friends'!*

Use of anxiolysis and pain management is part of modern anaesthesia and Jurox, the manufacturer of **Alfaxan®**, strongly recommend the use of premedication agents as well as pain control across the entire anaesthetic procedure.

**Alfaxan®** is very specifically an anaesthetic induction and maintenance agent. It is cleared rapidly and does not hold properties of analgesia or prolonged sedation.

### 2. Dosage

*Read the label!*

The recommended dose rate for **DOGS** is 2 mg/kg.

The recommended dose rate for **CATS** is 5 mg/kg.

The required dose for each individual will vary based on patient factors, premedication, pre-existing disease, and concurrent medications.

### 3. Administration

*Slowly does it!*

The calculated dose should be drawn up into a sterile syringe in preparation for intravenous (IV) injection. It is recommended to label the syringe if not being used immediately.

**There is no need to administer the total calculated dose as a single, rapid injection: this is counter-productive and not recommended.**

Some patients may undergo a short period of apnoea on induction. This can be avoided by inducing anaesthesia by slow continuous intravenous injection over 60 seconds, while assessing the degree of anaesthesia achieved.

**The necessary injection rate can be achieved by administration of one quarter (¼) of the calculated dose every 15 seconds.**

This method allows the patient, in effect, to choose the dose suitable for its individual requirements.

If premedication agents have been administered, the total calculated dose may not be required for every patient.

Note: **Alfaxan®** may be given by intramuscular injection to cats, however a degree of variability in response can be expected as the rate of absorption from intramuscular injection sites may vary between patients.

**Alfaxan® Multidose** is not registered for intramuscular use in either cats or dogs.

### 4. Transition

As **Alfaxan®** is a rapidly acting agent and is cleared quickly from the circulation, the transition to maintenance on gaseous anaesthesia should occur immediately after intubation. Delays in moving to gaseous anaesthesia could result in the patient lightening and thus requiring further doses of **Alfaxan®** to maintain an appropriate depth of anaesthesia.

### 5. Maintenance

If gaseous anaesthesia is used for maintenance, the machine's performance and the patient's cardinal signs should be closely monitored throughout the surgery. Similarly, careful monitoring is essential if Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) is used to maintain the patient. **Alfaxan®** products are registered for TIVA; see the product leaflet for details.

### 6. Recovery

Studies show that close monitoring of the patient during the recovery period from any anaesthetic event, regardless of agents used, will reduce the incidence of post-operative fatalities. Provide a warm, dimly lit, quiet area for post-operative recovery and schedule short-interval monitoring of each patient until they return to full consciousness.

**As part of all well-planned anaesthetic protocols Jurox recommends that best-practice should be the norm, including:**

- Adequate, ongoing staff training,
- Calm handling of the patient from introduction to recovery,
- Correct labelling of syringes,
- Correct use and maintenance of gaseous systems,
- Darkened, quiet recovery area with short-interval monitoring,
- Routine use of monitoring devices,
- Maintenance of records.

**Alfaxan®** has a high degree of reliability and a consistent effect. As an induction agent it has been used in a wide array of surgical procedures from dentistry, castration and ovariohysterectomy, abscess and wound debridement, tumour removal, radiography, caesarean section, cryosurgery, tail amputation, biopsy, nasopharyngeal endoscopy, rectal exam and many others.

**Alfaxan®** and **Alfaxan® Multidose** are highly recommended and well supported alternatives to other anaesthetic induction agents. Following the recommendations in this document will help provide a repeatable and reliable induction, transition, maintenance and recovery for the patient.

## References

1. Muir, W., et al., *Cardiorespiratory and anesthetic effects of clinical and supraclinical doses of alfaxalone in dogs*. Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, 2008. 35(6): p. 451-462.
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6. Heit, M.C., et al., *Safety and efficacy of Alfaxan® CD RTU administered once to cats subcutaneously at 10 mg/kg*. In ACVIM, 2004.



**28** days of use  
after broaching