

DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



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DOXYCYCLINE - *Full Version*

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Doxycycline is an oral tetracycline antibiotic used in dogs and cats to treat many bacterial infections, especially those carried by ticks. **Doxycycline** is available by prescription from a licensed veterinarian as tablets, capsules, oral suspension or as an injection. A gel formula is also used after some dental procedures.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A tetracycline antibiotic
- Given by mouth or as a dental preparation
- Given by injection at your veterinary clinic

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Useful to treat a variety of bacterial infections in dogs and cats including leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis and many diseases carried by ticks
- Gel formulation is used in dogs/cats after dental surgery to fight bacteria causing periodontal disease

ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- Most forms of this medication are used off-label in cats and dogs (excluding the periodontal gel) and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
 - Liver disease
- Safety has not been established in:

- Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals, due to the possible impact on bone and teeth development
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of **Doxycycline** is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully. Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy. Finish the entire course of treatment.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

This medication is often given with food to reduce the incidence digestive upset following medication administration.

For liquids, shake well before accurately measuring the dose.

When pilling your pet, especially cats, ensure that the medication is followed by at least a teaspoon of water or a favorite liquid (tuna water) to ensure that the medication is pushed into the stomach to avoid esophageal irritation. Do not 'dry-pill'.

Give **Doxycycline** 1-2 hours before or after any supplements or medications containing aluminum, calcium, magnesium, zinc, multivitamins, antacids or laxatives.

Give **Doxycycline** 3 hours before or 2 hours after any oral iron supplements or medications.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- When will your pet need to be rechecked
- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- Risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store capsules and tablets in tight, light resistant, childproof containers in a dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

After reconstitution, the oral suspension is stable for 14 days at room temperature. Do not refrigerate.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Pet owners allergic to **Doxycycline** and/or other tetracycline antibiotics should use caution when handling this drug.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Decrease in appetite, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian if pet experiences severe vomiting or diarrhea.
- Bone and teeth abnormalities in young animals are less likely with **Doxycycline** than other tetracyclines
- Damage to esophagus in pets from 'dry-pilling'. Ensure pet eats or drinks after receiving capsule or tablet form
- Superinfections have occurred in long-term tetracycline therapy
- Skin sensitivities (pustules or blisters on skin exposed to sun). Use caution when exposing pet to sunlight.
- Reported cases in human medicine of liver conditions and blood abnormalities
- It is important to stop therapy and contact your veterinarian immediately if you think you pet has a medical problem or side effect from this product's therapy
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Doxycycline** in conjunction with oral antacids, bismuth subsalicylates, doramectin, enrofloxacin, oral iron, ivermectin, kaolin, pectin, penicillin, phenobarbital, sucralfate and warfarin
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Doxycycline**
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet eats more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

Dogs/cats prescribed Doxirobe Oral Gel should not have teeth brushed for 2 weeks following application.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Doxycycline** should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

This is just a summary of information about **Doxycycline**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Doxycycline** or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

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