



Revised: April 28, 2025

Published: February 11, 2022

ERYTHROMYCIN OPHTHALMIC - *Full Version*

CPN: 63016431

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This drug is an eye medication that is used in cats and dogs primarily to treat bacterial infections. This medication is available only by prescription from a licensed veterinarian in the form of an ointment.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A macrolide antibiotic
- Used topically on the eye

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To treat bacterial infections on the surface of the eye
- This medication is not typically used preventatively and is often only prescribed based on culture and sensitivity results

ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is used off-label in cats and dogs 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**
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or other macrolides should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

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.

The length of use, frequency of administration and expected improvement is dependent upon your pet's diagnosis, clinical response and initial reason for use.

If your pet requires more than one medication in the same eye, administer the medications 5 minutes apart. If your pet requires more than one medication, discuss with your veterinarian if it is preferable to administer drops before ointments.

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

If you are having difficulty applying the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills.

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

Administration of eye ointment:

- Wash hands before applying any eye medication
- Check label directions
- Remove excess discharge from around the eye with a moistened cloth
- Remove the cap and avoid contaminating the tip of the medication tube with the environment or your fingers
- Tilt your pet's head back so that they are looking up towards the ceiling
- Gently roll down the lower eyelid of the affected eye and while holding the medication tube, rest your hand above the eye
- Be sure that the tip of the medication tube is not pointed towards the eye in case of any sudden movements
- Ensure that the tip of the medication tube does not touch your pet's eye, eyelids, or lashes
- Holding the tube parallel to the eyelid, apply the correct amount of ointment along the inner edge of the lower lid
- Gently hold the eyelids shut and massage to disperse the medication
- Place the cap back on the medication tube and avoid contaminating the inside of the cap with your fingers
- Wash your hands after applying any eye medication
- Always praise and reward your pet to encourage cooperation

WHAT IF A 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 your pet will 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
- What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced previous eye problems
- 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 or kidney 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 medications can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Erythromycin Ophthalmic should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Do not use any eye medications that have become discolored, cloudy or have particles in them.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- This medication may cause the eye to sting or be itchy for a short period after application
- This medication can cause local irritation resulting in redness and swelling of the tissues surrounding the eye
- Prolonged use of any antibiotic may lead to the development of bacterial resistance and overgrowth of other organisms
- If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian
- 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 **Erythromycin Ophthalmic** in conjunction with other medications
- 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 has accidentally ingested this medication or has received 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. It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to **Erythromycin Ophthalmic** at regular checkups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving **Erythromycin Ophthalmic**.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Erythromycin Ophthalmic** should only be given to the pet 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 **Erythromycin Ophthalmic**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Erythromycin Ophthalmic** or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.

All trademarks cited are the property of their respective owners.



THIS SERVICE AND INCLUDED DATA ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY. Without limiting the foregoing, the service and data are based on third party data, and DVMetrics & Services is not responsible or liable for such third-party data. Each user assumes full risk, responsibility, and liability related to use of the service and data. The service and data are further subject to the Terms of Use.

© 2026 DVMetrics & Services LLC