

DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



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GABAPENTIN - Full Version

CPN: 63000465

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Gabapentin is most commonly used in veterinary medicine to relieve chronic pain and in some pets, to reduce fear and anxiety associated with veterinary appointments. **Gabapentin** may be used alone or in combination with other drugs. **Gabapentin** is available only by prescription from a licensed veterinarian as capsules, tablets and as an oral solution.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- Is considered an anticonvulsant in human medicine but primarily used as an analgesic in veterinary medicine
- Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- May be used to manage chronic pain, especially pain associated with arthritis and pain associated with the nervous system (neuropathic pain)
- May be given before or after surgery to manage post-operative pain
- May be given prior to a veterinary appointment to reduce stress and fear associated with handling
- May be used as an adjunct treatment to control seizures in dogs or cats

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**
- 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:
 - Kidney or liver disease
- Safety has not been established in:

- Pregnant or nursing animals
- Use with caution in working dogs (military/police/seeing eye/hearing, etc.) as too much sedation may impede their ability to work and learn
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products 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. The length of use, frequency of administration and expected improvement is dependent upon your pet's diagnosis, clinical response and initial reason for use. Dose adjustments or changes to the dosage schedule are often based upon an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

If using the oral solution, shake well before measuring. Avoid use of the human **Gabapentin** solution as it contains Xylitol which is harmful to pets.

It may take several days before adequate blood levels to be reached to effectively control both seizures and pain. Monitor carefully during this time. Do not suddenly discontinue giving **Gabapentin**. Check with your veterinarian before stopping this drug. If **Gabapentin** is discontinued or not given as directed, your pet's pain or underlying seizure activity may return.

With regards to seizures: record the date, time, severity, length and circumstances of any seizure your pet has. Provide this information to your veterinarian in order to help him/her to best treat your pet.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Ideally, give the medication at the same time(s) daily.
Call ahead for refills

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:

- Common signs of pain in your pet
- Common signs of mobility changes: limping or lameness, stiffness, decreased joint movement, decreased activity, reluctance to stand, climb stairs, jump or run or difficulty in performing these activities
- The importance of weight control and exercise in the management of pain associated with arthritis
- 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
- What are the 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 liver or kidney disease now or over
- 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 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 a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight. Refrigerate the oral suspension.

Avoid the use of human **Gabapentin** solution as it contains Xylitol which is harmful to pets.

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 can affect the nervous system causing drowsiness, lethargy, loss of balance and coordination
- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing nausea and vomiting
- In human medicine, **Gabapentin** may cause false readings on certain urine protein tests
- If you notice anything 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 **Gabapentin** in conjunction with antacids, buprenorphine, cannabidiol, hydroxyzine, minocycline, mirtazapine and

opioid analgesics or narcotics (hydrocodone or morphine)

- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Gabapentin**
- 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 receives 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.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Gabapentin** 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 **Gabapentin**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Gabapentin** or the condition it was prescribed for, contact your veterinarian.

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