

# Fenbendazole

(fen-ben-da-zole)

**Category:** Antiparasitic Agent

**Other Names for this Medication:** Panacur®, Safe-Guard®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 222 mg/gram (22.2%) oral granules; 100 mg/mL (10%) oral suspension; 100 mg/gram (10%) oral paste; Combinations: Fenbendazole 454 mg, Ivermectin 27 mcg, & Praziquantel 23 mg (2.16 g small chews) & Fenbendazole 1.134g, Ivermectin 68 mcg, & Praziquantel 57 mg (5.4 g large chews) chewable tablets. **Human:** None.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

## Key Information

- ▶ Oral dewormer used in many species.
- ▶ Must be given for several days to be effective. Do NOT stop early or miss doses.
- ▶ Best given with food in small animals.
- ▶ Usually no side effects, but gastrointestinal effects (eg, vomiting, excessive drooling, diarrhea) can occur. Rarely, allergic reactions can occur when many parasites die in the body.

## How is this medication useful?

Fenbendazole is an orally (by mouth) administered antiparasitic drug (dewormer) that is effective against a variety of internal parasites in several species.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in several species for treating certain parasites. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with fenbendazole, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

## When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in:

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it.
- ▶ Horses to be consumed as food.

If your animal matches either of these, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

Fenbendazole, when used at labeled dosages, is generally well tolerated.

### **Side effects that usually are not serious include:**

- ▶ Dogs, cats: Vomiting, excessive salivation (drooling), or diarrhea.
- You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

### **Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:**

- ▶ Bone marrow suppression (very rare). This side effect may occur more often in birds than other species.
- ▶ Allergic reactions (especially at higher dosages). Large numbers of dying parasites releasing antigens inside the treated animal may result in an allergic reaction. If your animal collapses or passes out, has trouble breathing, or has intense itching or hives, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Single doses of fenbendazole are not effective in killing worms that infect most animals. Successful treatment with this medication requires dosing for at least 3 successive days. Certain parasites may require daily treatment for up to 2 weeks.
- ▶ Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication until your veterinarian recommends to do so; otherwise, re-treatment may be necessary.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time, so be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.
- ▶ Safe doses vary for different species. Make sure that you are using the correct dose for your animal.
- ▶ Dogs and cats usually receive this drug once daily as a liquid or granules sprinkled on food. Your veterinarian may ask you to also give several more days of the drug again in 2-3 weeks to kill any remaining parasites.
- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach, but it is best given with food in small animals. If your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give with food or a small treat to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

### What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

### How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

### Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

### How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

### What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Use of this drug in food animals (eg, cattle, goats, sheep, swine) may have meat or milk drug residue withdrawal requirements. Your veterinarian can advise you on how long milk must be discarded or the amount of time necessary to wait before slaughter.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

### If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.