

Ketoprofen

(kee-toe-*proe*-fen)

Category: Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Agent (NSAID)

Other Names for this Medication: Ketofen®, Anafen®, Orudis®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: In the US: 100 mg/mL injection (for horses). In Canada & UK: 5 mg, 10 mg, & 20 mg oral tablets; 100 mg/mL injection. **Human:** 50 mg & 75 mg oral capsules; 200 mg extended release capsules. Compounded dosage forms may be available.

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

- ▶ Give with food to small animals. Do not inject this drug into an artery or under the skin (subcutaneously, SC) in horses.
- ▶ Must only be used for a few days in cats or serious side effects can occur.
- ▶ Most common side effects are gastrointestinal (GI)-related (eg, reduced appetite, vomiting, diarrhea in small animals). Ulcers, bleeding, and liver and kidney problems can also occur.

How is this medication useful?

Ketoprofen is used to reduce pain and inflammation in dogs, cats (short-term), small mammals, and horses.

In the US, the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans and horses. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. In some other countries, this drug is approved for use in dogs and cats. 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 this drug, 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 or to other NSAIDs (eg, carprofen).
- ▶ Used in horses to be used for food.
- ▶ Injected into an artery or under the skin (subcutaneous, SC) in horses.
- ▶ Used in animals taking other NSAIDs (eg, deracoxib, flunixin, etodolac, firocoxib, meloxicam), aspirin, or corticosteroids (eg, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone) as there is a greater chance of adverse effects occurring.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That have stomach or gastrointestinal ulcers or have had them in the past as this drug may make these ulcers worse or cause them to come back.
- ▶ That are dehydrated or on diuretic treatment (eg, furosemide).
- ▶ That have pre-existing kidney, heart, and/or liver problems.
- ▶ That are pregnant, lactating, or used as a breeding animal. It is not known if ketoprofen is safe to use in these animals. The US label for the equine product states “*Do not use in breeding animals*”.
- ▶ That are very young, old, weak, or frail.
- ▶ That have bleeding problems.
- ▶ That may have an infection; ketoprofen may hide the signs of infection (eg, fever).
- ▶ That have low amounts of protein in their blood.
- ▶ Cats. The drug should only be used for a few days in cats or serious kidney effects could occur.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Horses: Ketoprofen appears relatively safe to use. Side effects in horses may include:

- ▶ Lack of an appetite.
- ▶ Signs of colic (eg, kicking at abdomen, rolling)
- ▶ Weight loss.
- ▶ Low energy level.
- ▶ Inflammation at the injection site.

Contact your veterinarian if your horse has any of these signs.

Dogs, Cats, Small Mammals: Ketoprofen is tolerated well in most dogs, cats (when used for 5 days or less), and small mammals, but side effects, some of them very serious, can occur, including:

- ▶ Decrease in appetite (eating less normal), weight loss, vomiting, changes in bowel movements (such as diarrhea or black, tarry or bloody stools).

- ▶ Changes in behavior or activity levels (more or less active than normal), incoordination (eg, stumbling, clumsiness), weakness, seizures (convulsions), or aggression (threatening behavior and actions).
- ▶ Yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (jaundice).
- ▶ Changes in drinking habits (frequency or amount consumed) or urination habits (frequency, color, or smell).
- ▶ Changes in skin (eg, redness, scabs, or scratching).

If you see any of these signs, stop giving the drug and contact your veterinarian immediately. Other rare adverse effects have also been reported. Contact your veterinarian if you have any concerns about your animal while they are receiving this medicine.

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: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

- ▶ When giving by mouth, ketoprofen is best given with food.
- ▶ When injecting into horses, do not inject into the artery (IA) or under the skin (SC, subcutaneous). The product is not labeled for intramuscular injection (IM), but it is often given this way. IM shots can occasionally cause inflammation at the injection site.
- ▶ Compounded 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.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. 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.

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 oral forms of this medication in their original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ Store the injection liquid in its original vial at room temperature.
- ▶ 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 leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ For the safety of your animal, your veterinarian will need to do periodic blood tests while on ketoprofen. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

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