

Ketorolac, Oral

(kee-toe-role-ak)

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

Other Names for this Medication: Toradol®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 10 mg oral tablets; 15 mg/mL & 30 mg/mL injection.

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

- ▶ Human NSAID that can be used for the short-term treatment of pain in dogs or small mammals.
- ▶ Give oral doses with food.
- ▶ Gastrointestinal (GI) effects (eg, vomiting, ulcers, bleeding) are highly possible if used for more than a few days. Liver, kidney, and blood problems can also occur.
- ▶ Notify veterinarian if signs of GI distress (lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, black feces, or blood in stool) occur, or if the animal becomes depressed.

How is this medication useful?

Ketorolac is used primarily for its pain-relieving effects for the short-term treatment of mild to moderate pain in dogs and small mammals (eg, rodents, rabbits).

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe 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 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 pet 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 pet 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.
- ▶ Animals with stomach or intestinal ulcers or gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding.
- ▶ That are taking other NSAIDs (eg, deracoxib, flunixin, etodolac, firocoxib, meloxicam), aspirin, or corticosteroids (eg, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone) as there is a greater chance of problems occurring.
- ▶ Cats for more than one or two doses as they are highly susceptible to developing serious side effects.
- ▶ Dogs or other animal patients for more than a few days.

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

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ That are very young, old, weak, or frail.
- ▶ That have bleeding problems.

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Decreased appetite or vomiting. Give with food to help prevent these side effects.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these signs 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:

- ▶ Stomach or intestinal ulcers and bleeding. Watch for bloody vomit (looks like coffee grounds); black, tarry, or bloody stools.
- ▶ Liver problems. Watch for yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (jaundice).
- ▶ Kidney problems. Watch for changes in drinking habits (frequency, amount consumed) or urination habits (frequency, color, or smell).

If you see any of these signs, stop giving the drug and contact your veterinarian immediately. Contact your veterinarian if you have any other concerns about your animal while they are taking this medicine.

If my pet 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 given by mouth, ketorolac should be given with food.
- ▶ 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 is usually only given for a few days at most. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving it.

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 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 taking this medicine. Do not miss these follow-up visits.

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