

Mavacoxib

(mav-ah-cox-ib)

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

Other Names for this Medication: Trocoxil®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 6 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 75 mg, & 95 mg chewable tablets. Note: At present, not available in the US. **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

- ▶ Give doses exactly as directed by veterinarian; do not give extra doses or increase the dose without your veterinarian's guidance. This drug is NOT given every day. After the first two doses, given two weeks apart, this medicine is given once a month for up to 5 doses. After that time, you must wait at least one month before the drug can safely be given again.
- ▶ Do not administer other NSAIDs (eg, carprofen, deracoxib, meloxicam) within 1 month of the last dose of mavacoxib.
- ▶ Give mavacoxib with the dog's largest meal of the day.
- ▶ Contact your veterinarian if any of the following adverse effects persist or are severe: loss of appetite, vomiting, change in bowel movements (eg, stool color, diarrhea), change in behavior, decrease in water consumption or urination. These effects can occur many weeks after the last dose was given.
- ▶ Immediately report to your veterinarian if any of the following adverse effects occur: bloody stools or vomit, facial swelling, hives, and red, itchy skin.
- ▶ Be sure your dog always has access to fresh, clean water while taking this medicine.
- ▶ Since dogs may like the taste of the chewable tablets, this medicine should be stored out of reach of animals and children.

How is this medication useful?

Mavacoxib is a very long-acting non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent (NSAID) that is used for the treatment of pain and inflammation associated with degenerative joint disease (ie, osteoarthritis) in dogs, especially when it is difficult to give other NSAIDs on a daily basis.

Mavacoxib (at present) is approved for use in dogs 12 months of age or older in the UK, Europe, and Australia, but it is not currently FDA approved for use in the United States. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in animals 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. Mavacoxib should not be used in other species (eg, cats).

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

- ▶ That are allergic to it or to sulfonamide drugs.
- ▶ Less than 12 months old or weighing less than 5 kg (11 lb).
- ▶ That have pre-existing kidney, heart, and/or liver problems.
- ▶ That are taking other NSAIDs (eg, deracoxib, etodolac, carprofen, meloxicam), aspirin, or corticosteroids (eg, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone) as there is a greater chance of adverse effects occurring.
- ▶ With active gastrointestinal (GI) problems.
- ▶ That are pregnant, breeding, or nursing.

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

- ▶ That have a history of stomach or gastrointestinal ulcers; mavacoxib may make these ulcers worse or come back.
- ▶ That are dehydrated, have low blood pressure, or are receiving diuretic treatment (eg, furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide).
- ▶ That are receiving other drugs that can cause kidney problems (eg, aminoglycoside antibiotics, amphotericin B).
- ▶ That have a bleeding disorder (eg, von Willebrand disease).
- ▶ That are old, weak, or frail.

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?

Mavacoxib is tolerated well in most dogs, but rarely, serious side effects (stomach ulcers, liver, or kidney problems) and sometimes death have been reported.

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

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

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

If you see any of these signs, stop giving the medicine and contact your veterinarian immediately. Other rare adverse effects have also been reported so be sure to contact your veterinarian if you have any other concerns about your dog while it is receiving 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.

- ▶ The drug should be given to dogs with a full meal; giving it with a small treat is not sufficient.
- ▶ After the first dose, a second dose is given 14 days later. Then, the medicine is given once a month for 5 more doses. If the drug is to be continued, an extra month is skipped before starting a new round of treatment. Most dogs will not need other pain control drugs during this month off, but some may need to have a different pain relieving medicine during this month off period. Contact your veterinarian if your dog needs additional pain relief.
- ▶ 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 and then wait the amount of time (one month) between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. 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. The chewable forms of this drug may be very appealing to dogs; be sure to store it in a secure area.

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?

- ▶ Dogs should not become dehydrated when receiving this or other NSAIDs. Be sure to have plenty of fresh, clean water available at all times for your dog.
- ▶ For the safety of your animal, your veterinarian will need to do periodic blood tests while your dog receives mavacoxib. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- ▶ 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.