

Polyethylene Glycol 3350

(pah-lee-eth-il-een gly-kol)

Category: Laxative (Anti-Constipation)

Other Names for this Medication: Miralax®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** Oral powder for solution, various sizes; available with or without electrolytes (salts).

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

- ▶ Used to treat constipation, bowel cleanse before procedures, and help remove toxins from GI (gastrointestinal) tract.
- ▶ Polyethylene glycol 3350 (PEG 3350) powders need to be dissolved in liquid before using. Follow your veterinarian's or pharmacist's measuring instructions carefully.
- ▶ PEG 3350 is available OTC (over-the-counter; without a prescription). Do not give PEG 3350 (or any other OTC medications) to your animal without first consulting a veterinarian.

How is this medication useful?

Polyethylene glycol 3350 (PEG 3350) is used to treat constipation, and can be used to completely empty the contents of the intestines (bowel cleanse) before a procedure. It can also be used to speed up passage of intestinal contents after poisons or toxins have been eaten.

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 PEG 3350, 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 patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ With an intestinal obstruction or perforation (tear).
- ▶ With toxic colitis, gastric retention, or megacolon (abnormally large colon).

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

- ▶ Animals that have signs of a bowel obstruction or perforation (tear) such as persistent vomiting, low energy level, no appetite, fever.
- ▶ Pregnant animals.

If your animal has any of these conditions or signs, 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:

- ▶ Diarrhea, flatulence (excess gas), cramping, nausea (acting sick), or swollen abdomen.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

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

Overdoses of PEG 3350 can cause fluid and electrolyte (salt) imbalances, which may require medical attention. 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.

- ▶ PEG 3350 powders need to be dissolved in liquid before using. Follow your veterinarian's or pharmacist's measuring instructions carefully.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ Continue giving this medication as the label says until your veterinarian has told you to stop giving it. If you want to stop before then, talk to your veterinarian as there may be important reasons to continue giving it.

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

If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the next regularly scheduled dose, skip the missed dose and give it at the regular time. Do not give two doses at once.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in its original prescription container 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?

- ▶ PEG 3350 is available OTC (over-the-counter; without a prescription). Do not give laxatives (or any other OTC medications) to your animal without first consulting a veterinarian.
- ▶ 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.