Ivermectin with Pyrantel Pamoate (Dogs)

*(eye-ver-**mek**-tin* with *pi-**ran**-tel **pam**-oh-ate)*
Category: Antiparasitic
Other Names for this Medication: Heartgard® Plus, Heartshield Plus®, Iverhart Plus®, Tri-Heart Plus®, Pettrust Plus®
Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Dogs: Chewable Oral tablets: Ivermectin/Pyrantel: 68 mcg/57 mg, 136 mcg/114 mg, & 272 mcg/227 mg. **Human:** None.

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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

- Antiparasitic combination used in dogs to prevent heartworm infection and for the treatment and control of roundworms and hookworms.
- Can be added to a small amount of food. It is best if the dog chews the tablet before swallowing. If your dog normally swallows treats whole (without chewing), the tablet may be broken into pieces and the pieces fed to the dog.
- Overdoses can be serious; keep flavored, chewable tablets out of reach of children and animals.
- Usually well tolerated. If you notice neurologic signs such as coma, weakness, clumsiness, dilated (ie, big) pupils, trembling, excessive salivation (ie, drooling), or the dog pressing its head against the wall, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Dispose of unused product carefully; it can be quite toxic to fish and wildlife.

How is this medication useful?

Ivermectin with pyrantel pamoate is used in dogs to prevent heartworm disease and for the treatment and control of roundworms and hookworms.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug combination 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 combination, 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 may have 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. Ivermectin with pyrantel is thought to be safe to use during pregnancy.
- 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 dogs that:

- Are allergic to pyrantel, ivermectin or other avermectin drugs (eg, selamectin, moxidectin).

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

- In puppies less than 6 weeks of age.
- Dogs must be tested for heartworm infection before being given ivermectin-containing products. Dogs infected with heartworms are at risk for having a serious adverse reaction (caused by the rapid die off of immature heartworms) following drug administration.

If your dog matches any 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?

When used as directed on the label, side effects are rare.

Reported side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these unless they are severe, persistent, or worsen. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

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

- Central nervous system toxicity (especially in those breeds that have the *ABCB1-1Δ [MDR1]* mutation). Toxic signs can include: coma, weakness, clumsiness, blindness, dilated (big) pupils, trembling, excessive drooling or foaming, or the animal pressing its head against the wall.
- Blindness or enlarged pupils can occur when doses are high, especially in susceptible breeds of dogs.

If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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

Overdoses of this drug combination can be serious and cause vomiting, diarrhea, stumbling, lethargy (ie, tiredness, lack of energy), rapid heartbeat, excessive drooling, dilation of pupils, coma, and seizures. 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.

- Remove only 1 chewable tablet at a time from the foil-backed blister card. Return the card with the remaining chewable tablets to its box to protect the product from light.
- It is best if the dog chews the tablet before swallowing. If your dog normally swallows treats whole (without chewing), the tablet may be broken into pieces and the pieces fed to the dog.
- Be sure your dog eats the complete dose. Watch your dog for a few minutes after dosing to be sure that part of the dose is not rejected or spit out. If it is suspected that any of the dose has not been eaten, redosing is recommended.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and to reduce 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 between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double up or give extra doses.

When using ivermectin for heartworm prevention: If more than 8 weeks have passed without giving this medication, start giving the drug as soon as you remember. After that, continue giving the medication monthly, but make sure to have your animal tested for heartworm infection 6 months later, as your dog may have become infected during the time the medication was not given.

How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in the original prescription container or an approved dosage-reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- Keep away from children and other animals, especially the chewable or flavored forms of the drug.

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

There are no specific precautions required when handling small animal products of 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?

- Dispose of ivermectin with pyrantel carefully as it is can be toxic to fish, turtles, and other wildlife.
- 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.

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

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