

# Pradofloxacin

(pra-doe-flox-a-sin)

**Category:** Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic

**Other Names for this Medication:** Veraflox®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 25 mg/mL oral suspension; 15 mg, 60 mg, & 120 mg tablets (Note: Tablets not available in the U.S.). **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

- ▶ Antibiotic approved only for use in cats in the U.S.; approved for use in dogs in some other countries.
- ▶ If using liquid form, shake the container well before measuring each dose.
- ▶ This antibiotic is best given without food on an empty stomach, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it, give with food or small treat (no dairy products, antacids, or anything containing iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Do not give with other drugs that contain calcium, iron, or aluminum (including sucralfate), as these can reduce the amount of drug that gets absorbed.
- ▶ May cause joint abnormalities if used in young animals, during pregnancy, or while nursing.
- ▶ Most common side effects are vomiting, nausea, or diarrhea.
- ▶ Complete the entire course of antibiotics prescribed by your veterinarian even if your animal appears well.

## How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved pradofloxacin for treating skin, respiratory tract, and urinary tract infections in cats. There are tablet forms approved for dogs in some other countries, but not in the U.S. 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 pradofloxacin, 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 is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ 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.

- ▶ 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 or drugs like it (eg, enrofloxacin).
- ▶ Animals that are pregnant or nursing unless the benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to offspring.
- ▶ Kittens fewer than 6 weeks old.
- ▶ Young dogs between 2-8 months old in small and medium-sized breeds and up to 18 months old in large and giant breeds.
- ▶ Cats and dogs with joint cartilage problems or lesions (from the UK product label).

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

- ▶ Dogs: The FDA-approved (U.S.) label states: **Do not use in dogs**, as it can cause bone marrow depression. However, the drug is approved for use in dogs in some other countries.
- ▶ Cats: When used longer than 7 days, a greater chance for bone marrow effects is possible.
- ▶ Animals with a history of epilepsy or seizures.
- ▶ Animals that have liver or kidney problems.
- ▶ Animals that are dehydrated.

If your pet 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, vomiting, reduced appetite.

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.

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

- ▶ Watch for bleeding, bruising, or your animal becoming tired easily. These may be signs of bone marrow depression (especially in dogs).
- ▶ Trouble walking (or other joint effects), especially in young or growing animals.
- ▶ Fever, rashes, or trouble breathing, which may indicate an allergic reaction.
- ▶ Decreased or lack of an appetite, especially in cats.

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

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

Overdoses of pradofloxacin can be serious and cause anemias and damage to the kidneys and nervous system, but vomiting is the most likely effect. 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.

- ▶ Pradofloxacin is best given without food on an empty stomach, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give with food or small treat (no dairy products, antacids, or iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully and the container shaken well before measuring each dose. Use the syringe provided to ensure accuracy of dosing to the nearest 0.1 mL. Rinse syringe between doses.
- ▶ 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 this medication in its original prescription container or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature (below 86°F, 30°C).
- ▶ 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?

- ▶ People with known allergy to quinolones (eg, ciprofloxacin) should avoid contact with the product.
- ▶ Not for human use. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling this product. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. In case of eye contact, immediately flush eyes with lots of water. In case of skin contact, wash skin with soap and water immediately for at least 20 seconds. Consult a physician if irritation continues following eye or skin exposure, or if you accidentally get some in your mouth.

### 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 left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

### What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ This drug is banned from use in food animals.
- ▶ 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.**