

Prescription Label

Patient Name:

Species:

Drug Name & Strength:

Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):

Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:

Refills:

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

Altrenogest

(*al-tren-oh-jest*)

Description: Progestin

Other Names for this Medication: Regu-Mate®, Matrix®

Common Dosage Forms: **Veterinary:** 2.2 mg/mL (0.22%) in oil solution. **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

- ▶ Manufacturer warns that pregnant women and other susceptible people should not handle or be exposed to drug; see warnings below.
- ▶ Watch for signs of uterine infection (pyometra): abnormal discharge from the vulva/vagina, fever, acting tired.
- ▶ Strict drug residue withdrawal times when used in swine; FDA bans extra-label use (that is, use this drug in a way that is not on the FDA-approved label) in other food/fiber animals.
- ▶ Must be stored out of light.

How is this medication useful?

Altrenogest is a progestin that is given to horses to keep them from cycling or if they are already pregnant, to keep them from losing the foal. This medicine is also labeled for use in swine (gilts) to synchronize estrus for planned breeding. In dogs, altrenogest has been used to increase fertility and maintain pregnancy. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in horses and swine. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in animal patients for other conditions and species 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 altrenogest, 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 animal 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 animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication takes several doses before you will see any effect. The medication's full effects may not be evident until your animal has taken it consistently for several weeks. However, you may not see any improvement of clinical signs outwardly, so your veterinarian may need to run further tests to determine if the drug is working appropriately. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days.

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 to be used for food purposes, except in swine (where it must be used as directed on the label).
- ▶ That have an infected uterus (pyometra).

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

- ▶ That are pregnant.
- ▶ Susceptible to or that have had chronic uterine infections in the past.
- ▶ That have liver disease.

If your animal matches any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the medication versus the benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

When used as directed on the label, altrenogest is usually tolerated well by horses and swine.

Common but not serious side effects include:

- ▶ Mild increases in liver enzymes can rarely be seen. Your veterinarian will monitor for this.

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

- ▶ Altrenogest may increase the chance of a uterine infection (pyometra) occurring, especially in dogs. If you notice your animal acting listless (lacking interest in things, tired, no energy), fever, or producing an abnormal, bloody, or foul-smelling discharge from the vulva/vagina, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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

There is little information regarding altrenogest overdoses. If you witness or suspect an overdose, immediately contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); 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.

- ▶ Altrenogest can be given with or without food, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ 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 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?

- ▶ Altrenogest should be stored in a tight, light-resistant (the drug is very sensitive to light), childproof container away from children and other animals. If it is not supplied in a child-resistant bottle, it must be kept well out of reach of children.
- ▶ Always wear gloves when handling this medication. When removing a dose, the liquid often drips down the side of the container and should be cleaned up safely. Altrenogest is an oily drug, and lots of detergent and water may be required for clean-up.

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

The manufacturer of altrenogest recommends that certain people must **NOT HANDLE** this product:

- ▶ Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant.
- ▶ Anyone with blood clots or a history of blood clots.
- ▶ Anyone with hardening of the arteries or a history of stroke.
- ▶ Women with breast cancer or a history of breast cancer.
- ▶ Women with estrogen dependent cancerous tumors.
- ▶ Women with undiagnosed vaginal bleeding.
- ▶ Women who have had tumors that developed while taking estrogens or oral contraceptives.

If you, or others that may handle this product, fit any of these categories, discuss with your veterinarian whether this drug can be safely used or if other treatments may be better.

If it is not possible for another person to give the drug, people meeting any of the above criteria must be very careful not to come into contact with the medication and are strongly advised to wear disposable nitrile gloves when handling this medication. Do not reuse gloves. Once used, they should be disposed of safely in the trash. If accidental exposure occurs, wash off immediately and contact your physician.

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.

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

Special Instructions:
