plumb's® veterinary medication guides™

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]

Cyanocobalamin – Vitamin B12

*(sye-**an**-oh-koe-**bal**-ah-min)*
Description: Vitamin and Nutritional Supplement
Other Names for this Medication: Vitamin B12
Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Injection: 1000 mcg/mL, 3,000 mcg/mL, & 5,0000 mcg/mL; these may be in vials that are too large for practical use in dogs or cats. **Human:** Injection: 100 mcg/mL & 1000 mcg/mL. Oral Tablets: 100 mcg, 250 mcg, 500 mcg, & 1000 mcg.

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

- Vitamin injected under the skin or given orally to treat vitamin B12 (cobalamin) responsive conditions.
- May take several weeks of treatment before improvement is seen.
- Very safe supplement to give patients. Injections may sting.
- Store the injection protected from light; do not freeze.
- Dispose of needles and syringes safely in an appropriate sharps disposal container.

How is this medication useful?

Cyanocobalamin is used to treat cobalamin (vitamin B12) deficiency associated with gastrointestinal disease. There are veterinary- and human-labeled products. For small animal use, human-labeled injectable products may be preferable due the large vial sizes of veterinary products. 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.

- Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of 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.

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- 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 should start having effects within 1 to 2 days; however, you will not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your veterinarian will need to run further tests to determine if the medication 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 allergic to it.

If this is the case, 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?

Injectable vitamin B12 usually does not cause side effects; however, the injection may sting. Allergic reactions have been very rarely reported in humans getting the drug. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

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

Overdoses of cyanocobalamin should not cause much concern, but be sure you understand the correct amount to give. If you witness or suspect an overdose and your animal is showing abnormal signs, 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.

- The drug is injected under the skin (subcutaneously). Be sure you understand how to draw up the correct amount into the syringe and the proper places and technique to inject it.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to accept the injections, contact your veterinarian for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- If you are injecting this medication at home, place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used. Do not reuse needles and syringes. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Be careful not to accidentally stick yourself. Do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe—place both items in the sharps container. Keep containers out of reach of children and animals. Once about ¾ full, dispose of sharps containers according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online or in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.
- Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. 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.

How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in its original prescription vial at room temperature or in the refrigerator. Protect from light or freezing. Thirty (30) days after the vial stopper has been punctured for the first time, a new vial should be used.
- 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 animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication. Be careful when handling syringes and needles to avoid accidentally sticking yourself.

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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?

- Your veterinarian will need to perform blood tests on your animal to see if this medicine is helping. 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 about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Special Instructions:

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