

Amoxicillin

Amoxil, Amoxitabs, Trimox and Wymox are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Amoxicillin is a broad spectrum penicillin-class antibiotic used to treat infections in dogs and cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Amoxicillin is a very safe antibiotic but may cause serious problems in animals with penicillin allergies.
- Horses may develop severe diarrhea with subsequent colic when amoxicillin is given orally; use with caution.
- Rabbits may also develop severe diarrhea when given amoxicillin orally. You should never give antibiotics orally to your rabbit unless a veterinarian has specifically directed you to do so.
- If your animal has allergies to penicillins or has had bad reactions to penicillins in the past, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have for your animal.
- You should always give all of the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the entire course of treatment is not finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics and cause a worsening infection.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Most animals (not horses or rabbits) tolerate amoxicillin very well, but it may cause decreased appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. Giving this medication with food may decrease the occurrences of reduced appetite and vomiting.

How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- 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 regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose, as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- Dogs and Cats: This medication is usually given orally twice daily to dogs and cats as an oral tablet or liquid. In the veterinary hospital it may be given as an injection under the skin twice daily.
- Ferrets: This medication has been given to ferrets orally two to three times daily for infection.
- Birds: This medication has been given to birds orally three to four times daily for infection.
- Horses: This drug has been given orally to horses for severe respiratory infections, but may cause severe diarrhea and subsequent colic or death.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Amoxicillin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Oral liquids should be shaken well, stored in the refrigerator, and not used after 14 days have elapsed since mixing powder with water to make a liquid.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook