

Bisacodyl

Modane® and Dulcolax® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Bisacodyl is used as a stimulant laxative in dogs and cats.

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

- Bisacodyl should not be used in animals that have an obstruction in their gastrointestinal tract. Those animals who have recently undergone surgery of the stomach or intestines should not receive bisacodyl as stimulation from this drug may cause the incision to come apart.
- This drug may cause other drugs to go through the intestines so fast that they will not be properly absorbed. Do not give this drug within two hours of other drugs.
- Chronic use of bisacodyl may cause the intestines to become flaccid and prevent your animal from efficiently eliminating feces. Do not give this medication without your veterinarian's recommendation.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Stomach pain and intestinal cramping are most commonly reported from bisacodyl.
- Diarrhea may also result from use of bisacodyl.
- Do not give milk or antacids within one hour of bisacodyl as these agents will dissolve the protective coating resulting in destruction of the drug before it reaches its target in the gastrointestinal tract.

How Should It Be Given?

- Bisacodyl can be given orally or in the rectum. Do not crush the tablets or allow your animal to chew them or severe stomach cramps and pain may result. 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: Dogs and cats usually receive this drug as an oral tablet or as an enema solution. Bisacodyl is usually only given for short periods of time.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Bisacodyl should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Tablets should not be crushed or chewed as intense stomach cramping and pain may result.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook