

## **Deracoxib**

Deramaxx® is another name for this medication.

### **How Is This Medication Useful?**

- .. Deracoxib is useful in reducing pain caused by inflammation especially after a surgical procedure. It is considered to be much safer than aspirin or ibuprofen or acetaminophen.
- .. At lower doses, deracoxib can be useful in treating arthritis in dogs for long periods of time.

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

- .. Dogs with bleeding problems (e.g., Von Willebrand's Disease) should not take deracoxib as it may stimulate uncontrollable bleeding at higher doses.
- .. Animals with kidney disease should not take deracoxib, as it may worsen the kidney disease.
- .. Animals with stomach ulcers or bowel disorders should not take deracoxib.
- .. Cats cannot efficiently eliminate deracoxib and should not receive this drug as it can be toxic to the kidneys.
- .. Other anti-inflammatory drugs similar to deracoxib have caused birth defects in humans and animals. Deracoxib should probably not be used in pregnant animals.
- .. 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?**

- .. Some dogs may develop dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) after taking drugs like deracoxib. If your dog develops any eye discharge or squinting while taking deracoxib, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- .. Deracoxib is generally free of side effects but may cause vomiting or diarrhea in some animals. You should report these to your veterinarian immediately if they occur.
- .. Deracoxib at higher doses (two times the normal dose) can cause bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract. Stop giving deracoxib and notify your veterinarian immediately if your pet vomits blood or has feces that appear black or tarry.
- .. Deracoxib and drugs like it may cause liver damage in some animals. You should notify your veterinarian immediately if your pet seems lethargic (lacking energy), vomits, or stops eating.
- .. Animals who take Deracoxib should have bloodwork before they start taking the drug, and at least twice yearly as long as they continue to take the drug.

### **How Should It Be Given?**

- .. Deracoxib tablets are scored and the dose can be rounded down to the nearest ½ tablet. Deracoxib should be given with food to reduce stomach injury or upset.
- .. 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.
- .. Deracoxib and other drugs in the category (called NSAIDs) should not be given at the same time as cortisone type drugs such as prednisone, dexamethasone, Vetalog, Kenalog, and DepoMedrol. Giving

these drugs together can cause severe side effects, including ulceration and bleeding of the stomach and small intestines, and kidney failure.

.. Dogs and Cats: Dogs usually receive deracoxib orally once or twice daily with meals. Cats do not usually receive deracoxib.

### **What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?**

.. Deracoxib should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.

.. Be careful to keep chewable tablets out of the reach of your pets. Ingesting an entire bottle of this drug could be very toxic to your dog.