

# Praziquantel

Droncit®, Drontal®, Drontal Plus®, Cutter Tape Tabs® are other names for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- Praziquantel is used to kill intestinal tapeworms and some other types of parasites.

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

- Praziquantel should not be used in puppies less than 4 weeks old and kittens less than 6 weeks old unless indicated on the product labeling or authorized by your veterinarian.
- Praziquantel is considered safe for use 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?

- Side effects are rare, but praziquantel can cause loss of appetite, diarrhea, vomiting and drooling.
- The injection can cause pain or a lump at the injection site.
- Some cats will show signs of weakness and staggering after praziquantel administration.
- If your pet shows any of the above signs, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- If your animal has a large load of tapeworms, they may be expelled in the feces. Usually, however the tapeworms are digested before they come out in the feces.

## How Should It Be Given?

- Praziquantel is given with or without food as a single dose. If your pet is large, your veterinarian may give you several tablets to give at one time. Make sure that your pet swallows all of the medication. Your veterinarian may ask you to repeat a dose in a few weeks to make sure that all forms of the parasite are dead.
- 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.
- 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 usually receive this medication orally as a single dose. Your veterinarian may ask you to give the tablets once more in 2-3 weeks to ensure that all the parasites are dead.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

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

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### **References:**

*Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook*