

# Doxycycline

Vibramycin® is another name for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- Doxycycline is used to treat many infections in pets, especially those diseases caused by ticks. Many of these diseases cause low platelet counts.
- Doxycycline can also be inserted into gum pockets of dogs after they have a dental surgery to help fight bacteria that cause periodontal disease.

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

- Some animals are allergic to doxycycline. If your animal has shown allergies to any of the tetracycline products, you should tell your veterinarian before you give your pet doxycycline.
- Because animals do not swallow their medications with water, and because their bodies are horizontal instead of vertical, tablets and capsules can sometimes get stuck on their way to the stomach. Doxycycline tablets and capsules have caused severe irritation of the throat of cats that were given these medications without water. Cats should be given about a teaspoonful of water after each tablet or capsule dose. You should offer your cat a favorite drink following each tablet or capsule dose of doxycycline. Another possibility is to ask for doxycycline in a liquid form for your cat. However, some cats resent the taste of liquid doxycycline and foam at the mouth when it is given.
- 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.
- 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?

- Nausea and vomiting are the most common side effects seen with dogs and cats given doxycycline. To reduce these side effects, give each dose with a meal. If your dog or cat experiences severe vomiting or diarrhea, contact your veterinarian.

## 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.
- Doxycycline should not be taken with iron or dairy products.
- 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 doxycycline orally once or twice daily. Cats should be given at least a teaspoonful of water or offered a favorite liquid to drink following tablets or capsules.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Pets should be watched carefully if they spend a lot of time in direct sunlight as doxycycline can cause the skin to erupt in pustules and blisters when exposed to sunlight.

### References:

Plumb Veterinary Drug Handbook