



Medicine series

Practice details

# Piroxicam

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called piroxicam. It may have a trade name such as Feldene or Brexidol, but often will just be called piroxicam.

## What is piroxicam?

Piroxicam belongs to a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These drugs relieve pain, reduce inflammation and swelling, and can restore normal body temperature if a patient has a fever. A few NSAIDs, including piroxicam, are sometimes used to help treat certain types of tumour.

## Why has my pet been prescribed piroxicam?

Vets sometimes use piroxicam to help treat certain types of tumour that are known to respond to this drug. This includes carcinomas (tumours) involving the bladder, prostate gland, colon and rectum (end of the large bowel).

## How should I store piroxicam?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children and in a childproof container.**

## How do I give piroxicam tablets or capsules to my pet?

Try to disguise them in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, they can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed. Occasionally, piroxicam is provided as a suppository to be inserted into your pet's rectum (bottom) and your vet will give you advice if this is the case.

## How long will my pet need to take piroxicam?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients.

## What should I do if I run out of tablets or capsules?

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more piroxicam from your vet if your supply is getting low. If you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If a dose is missed, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next

scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately** as an overdose of piroxicam can be very serious. Complications can include kidney failure and severe ulceration of the stomach.

## Can my pet take piroxicam if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. Do not give piroxicam to your pet if they are already taking other drugs belonging to the NSAIDs group or corticosteroids (steroids, e.g. prednisolone). Great care and dose adjustments may be required if your pet is also taking diuretics (used in heart failure and to remove excess fluid from the body), bisphosphonates or aminoglycosides (a group of antibiotics). If you have any concerns about using piroxicam with other medications, please ask your vet for further advice.

## What are the possible side effects of piroxicam for my pet?

Piroxicam may cause vomiting, diarrhoea, black tarry faeces, a loss of appetite, increased drinking and general depression. These side effects may be an early indication of stomach ulceration or kidney failure. If your dog shows these or *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, **STOP giving piroxicam** and contact your vet as soon as possible.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking piroxicam?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

## The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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### What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets or capsules plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

### Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about piroxicam.