



Medicine series

Practice details

Terbutaline

- 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 terbutaline. It may have a trade name such as Bricanyl, but often will just be called terbutaline.

What is terbutaline?

Terbutaline is a prescription-only medication used for the treatment of asthma, tracheal collapse, bronchitis and other lung diseases. It has an effect by causing the airways to open (dilate) allowing for more air to pass through. Terbutaline can also be used in patients who have a particular heart condition where the heart rate is too low.

Why has my pet been prescribed terbutaline?

If your pet has been prescribed terbutaline for their airway disease, it will help to dilate or open the airways, meaning that breathing is easier for them. If the medication has been dispensed for your pet's heart condition, terbutaline will increase the heart rate so it is not dangerously low.

How should I store terbutaline?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. The tablets are fine to be stored at room temperature, away from light. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give terbutaline tablets 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. Ensure that plenty of fresh water is available.

How long will my pet need to take terbutaline?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that you complete the course of treatment even if your pet seems to be well. If your pet is still unwell at the end of the course, then you should contact your vet as soon as possible.

What should I do if I run out of terbutaline?

Try to ensure that you have enough medication in advance of it running out. However, 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 you miss a dose, 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 if your pet receives an overdose of terbutaline. An overdose can disturb the heart rhythm, leading to increased blood pressure, fever, dilated pupils and vomiting.

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

It is not advised to give this medication with high doses of steroids and some other heart medicines. 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.

What are the possible side effects of terbutaline for my pet?

Side effects of terbutaline are generally minor, however, it may cause your pet to have a fine tremor, increased heart rate, dizziness or excitement.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication or you feel they are excessively sedated, you should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

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

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, they should contact their doctor **immediately**. This leaflet along with any remaining medication and its containers (even if they are empty) should be taken with them.

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 further information on terbutaline.

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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