Corticosteroids
Ophthalmic

Decadron®, Pred Forte® and Econopred® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Corticosteroids are used in the eye to stop inflammation. The ones most commonly used in the eye are prednisolone and dexamethasone. They should not be used in animals with an infected eye ulcer.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Corticosteroids should not be used in animals that are allergic to them or to drugs like them.
- Corticosteroids should not be used in the presence of ulcers infected with bacteria or fungus.
- Corticosteroids may cause problems in pets with diabetes or Cushing’s disease.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- Corticosteroids have few known side effects when used in the eye. You should not use more than prescribed and you should not get the drops on the animals face or in its mouth. You should prevent your pet from licking the drops off.

How Should It Be Given?
- Corticosteroids are used once or twice daily for inflammation of the eye. Corticosteroid drops should be shaken well before use.
- 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.
- You should always wash your hands after applying this medication to your pet’s eyes as it can get into your eyes and cause dilation of the pupil.
- Dogs and Cats: Corticosteroids are usually administered four times daily for inflammation in dogs and cats.
- Horses: Horses may receive corticosteroids once or twice daily as a drop or an ointment.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Corticosteroids should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Corticosteroid drops should be shaken well before use.