

Meloxicam

Mobic® and Metacam® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is used to stop pain and inflammation in animals. Meloxicam and drugs like it have fewer side effects in animals than drugs like aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen.

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

- Animals allergic to meloxicam or drugs like it should not take this drug.
- Because meloxicam may cause stomach ulcers and bleeding, it should not be given to animals who already have stomach or bleeding problems.
- Meloxicam can also cause damage to the liver and kidneys and should be used very carefully, if at all, in animals who already have problems with these organs.
- Meloxicam should not be used in animals who are dehydrated or have fluid imbalance because this will increase the risk of damage to the kidneys.
- Meloxicam should not be used in combination with other anti-inflammatory drugs as this can increase the risk of serious side effects. Ask your veterinarian before you give any other medications to your pet while taking meloxicam.
- Meloxicam should not be used in pregnant or nursing animals unless the life of the mother is at risk. Meloxicam should not be used in animals less than 6 weeks old.
- 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?

- Meloxicam can sometimes cause stomach upset in animals. If your pet vomits blood or appears to have blood in its stools, you should stop giving the drug and call your veterinarian immediately.

- It can also cause damage to the liver and kidneys and blood system. If your pet loses its appetite, becomes unusually tired or has changes in urination, you should contact your veterinarian immediately. If your pet shows signs of bruising on its gums and hairless areas, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

How Should It Be Given?

- Meloxicam should be given with food.
- 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.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally once daily.
- **Horses:** Horses usually receive this drug either by injection or orally.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Meloxicam should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets. If your pharmacist has compounded a special liquid form of meloxicam, you should shake it well and store it exactly as the pharmacist has instructed.