Milbemycin

Interceptor® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Milbemycin is a drug used to prevent heartworm disease, certain intestinal worms, and to treat certain kinds of mange.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Milbemycin should not be used in animals that are allergic to it or to drugs like it.
- If your pet has a large amount of immature heartworms (microfilaria) in its blood, milbemycin may cause them to all die off at once and cause a very serious reaction in your pet. Your veterinarian will want to do a heartworm test on your pet before starting milbemycin.
- Milbemycin does get into the milk of nursing mothers, but it has not caused any problems in babies nursing milk from mothers who are taking milbemycin.
- If you are stopping the once daily heartworm prevention, then you must start milbemycin within 30 days or your pet may get heartworms.
- At higher doses, milbemycin may get into the brains of Collies and other herding breeds and cause coma and even death. If your pet shows any sign of weakness, confusion or stumbling, notify your veterinarian immediately.
- Milbemycin tablets are flavored with a pork liver extract and may cause food allergies in some patients.
- You should not use milbemycin in animals less than 8 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?
- Milbemycin may cause a serious reaction in pets with high amounts of immature heartworms in their blood. Your veterinarian will do a heartworm test on your pet before prescribing milbemycin.
- Milbemycin at high doses can get into the brains of some animals and cause damage. If you notice that your pet is stumbling, weak, confused, or shows any signs of behavior change, you should notify your veterinarian immediately.

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.
- 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. If you miss more than 8 weeks of giving this drug, you should have your pet tested for heartworms within 6 months as they may have become infected during the time the drug was not given.
- 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: Milbemycin is usually given orally to dogs and cats once monthly for heartworm prevention. Milbemycin may be given orally once daily to dogs with certain kinds of mange.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Milbemycin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.