Misoprostol

Cytotec® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

• Misoprostol is used to help heal stomach ulcers and protect against ulcers caused by some drugs. Misoprostol is also used with other drugs to help control allergic skin disease in dogs. It has also been given to animals to protect kidneys from damage caused by a drug called cyclosporine.

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

• Misoprostol can cause miscarriage. It should not be handled by pregnant women and should not be given to pregnant animals.
• Misoprostol enters mother’s milk and can cause serious diarrhea in nursing offspring.
• Misoprostol should not be used in animals that have problems with the blood vessels in their brain or hearts as these animals may suffer seizures or a dangerous drop in blood pressure. If your animal has a history of seizures or a problem with blood vessels you should tell your veterinarian.
• 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?

• The most common side effect of misoprostol is stomach upset with diarrhea and vomiting. Some animals will have excessive gas. Usually these side effects will go away in a few days. Giving misoprostol with food may also lessen these side effects.
• Some female animals will experience uterine cramps and bleeding from the vagina. If your animal experiences these side effects, contact your veterinarian for advice.

How Should It Be Given?

• Misoprostol should be given with food orally three times daily. Pregnant women should not handle this drug at all and should have another family member give the drug to the pet.
• 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 misoprostol orally with food three times daily. Pregnant animals should not receive this drug.
• Horses: Horses may receive this drug orally three times daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

• Misoprostol should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
• Misoprostol can cause miscarriage and should not be handled by pregnant women or given to pregnant animals.