

Oxytetracycline Ophthalmic

Terramycin® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Oxytetracycline is a strong antibiotic that is used to treat bacterial infections of the clear part of the eye (cornea) and the pink parts around the eyelids (conjunctiva). It is mostly used to treat cats with bacterial eye diseases or to treat pink eye.

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

- There are very few side effects associated with oxytetracycline use in the eye. Some cats will be allergic to one of the other ingredients (polymyxin) in Terramycin®. If your cat's eye looks worse after you start the medication, you should call your veterinarian.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The medication may cause the eye to sting a bit when first put in the eye.
- Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. You should watch it for a short time to make sure it does not bump into things and injure itself.
- Side effects from eye use of oxytetracycline are rare, but when used orally or by injection, oxytetracycline can cause discoloration of the teeth of young animals and can increase the risk of severe sunburn while in direct sunlight.
- Some animals will experience swelling of the lids and itching after use. You should call your veterinarian if this happens.

How Should It Be Given?

- Eye drops may be used every 2-6 hours and ointments every 8-12 depending on the condition that your veterinarian is treating.
- If you are giving more than one medication, you should allow 5 minutes between medications to allow the medication to work and to not be washed out by the next medication.
- Medication should be applied in the lower eyelid sac (conjunctival sac) without touching the tip of the dropper or tube to the eye as this will contaminate the medication. Do not touch the dropper or tube tip with your fingers as this will also contaminate the medication.

- 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.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Oxytetracycline are usually administered as an ointment three to four times daily.
- **Horses:** Horses will usually receive oxytetracycline as an ointment once or twice daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Oxytetracycline should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Your pet's eye should start to look better in 48 hours. If the eye looks the same or gets worse, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.