

Paroxetine

Paxil® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Paroxetine is a drug used to correct undesirable behavior in animals such as aggression, fear of noises such as thunderstorms, and self-mutilation (pulling fur out or licking skin until it makes a sore.) It may also be used to stop horses from weaving.

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

- Paroxetine should not be used in animals who are also receiving drugs known as MAO inhibitors (Mitaban® Dip, Preventic® Flea Collars, Anipryl®, and isoniazid are a few of these drugs).. When paroxetine is given with these drugs it can cause serious increases in blood pressure that can cause death. Aged cheese can also cause this effect, so make sure that your pets do not get into any aged cheese while on this drug. If your pet is receiving any of these medications, your veterinarian will ask you to stop giving them for at least 2-5 weeks before prescribing paroxetine.
- Paroxetine should be used with caution in pets that have a history of seizures as it may cause a seizure.
- Paroxetine is removed from the body by the liver and kidneys and should be used very carefully in animals that have liver or kidney disease.
- It is not known if paroxetine can be used safely in pregnancy. It should be used in pregnant animals only when the benefit to the mother outweighs the risk to the babies.
- 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?

- Paroxetine has not shown many side effects in animals at normal doses. It may cause tiredness, stomach upset, anxiety, restlessness and irritability.
- Loss of appetite is a common side effect of paroxetine in dogs.

How Should It Be Given?

- Paroxetine should be given with or without food orally once daily.
- 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 paroxetine orally once daily. Do not give your pet aged cheese or use tick collars while on this drug.
- **Horses:** Paroxetine has been given orally once daily for horses that are suffering from weaving.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Paroxetine should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.