Prednisone
Prednisolone
Predni-tab®, Cortef®, Prelone®, Solu-Delta-Cortef®
are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Prednisone and prednisolone are glucocorticoid
drugs (like the hormone cortisol) used for many
indications. They affect nearly every cell in the
body and can be used to suppress the immune
system in diseases like lupus, to stop itching, to
treat Addison’s Disease, to treat certain types of
cancer, to stop swelling of the brain, to treat cer-
tain kinds of anemia and many other diseases
and conditions. You should ask your veterinarian
specifically why this medication is being used in
your pet.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use
Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Prednisone and drugs like it should not be used
in patients that have a fungus infection, as this
will cause significant worsening of the fungal
condition.
- Some kinds of mange are worsened with the use
of prednisone and drugs like it.
- Prednisone and drugs like it should always be
given with food to prevent stomach ulcers and
bleeding that are sometimes associated with oral
corticosteroid therapy.
- Animals with Cushing’s disease are already mak-
ing too much cortisol and should only receive
glucocorticoid drugs during stressful events or
when your veterinarian recommends them.
- Prednisone and other glucocorticoids may st Unt the growth of developing animals and should be
used with extreme caution in young animals.
- Prednisone and drugs like it significantly alter the
effect of other medications. You should not give
it at the same time as other anti-inflammatory
drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin or carprofen (Ri-
madyl®, Etogesic®, or Deramaxx®). You should
tell your veterinarian about any other
medications that you are giving your pet.
- Glucocorticoids also affect the results of many
laboratory tests. You should always tell your
veterinarian about any medications that you are
giving your pet prior to a laboratory test of any
kind.
- Prednisone must be converted to the active form
of the drug, prednisolone, in the liver. If your pet
has liver disease, then your veterinarian will
probably prescribe prednisolone instead of
prednisone.

- Prednisone does not work as well orally in
horses as prednisolone does, and your veteri-
narian will probably prescribe prednisolone if
your horse needs a glucocorticoid.
- If your pet has been on high doses of prednisone
or other immunosuppressive drugs, you should
not have it vaccinated without your veterinari-
ian’s advice as the vaccine may not work or may
actually give your pet the disease that you are
trying to prevent.
- Animals who have received prednisone and
drugs like it for a long time should not be taken
off the drug suddenly as their bodies may not
return to making their own cortisol hormone.
Cortisol and prednisone help your pet handle
stressful events so you should ask your veteri-
narian before stopping any prednisone therapy.
- Prednisone and drugs like it should be used very
carefully in diabetic pets as these drugs will alter
blood sugar and the amount of insulin that your
pet needs.
- Prednisone therapy may cause your horse to go
into early labor if administered during the later
parts of pregnancy.
- 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?
- Animals treated with prednisone will have an
increased appetite, increased thirst and an in-
creased need to urinate. You should be aware
that your pet may need to go out more fre-
quently to urinate. As it is stressful to some pets
to have “accidents” you should make sure that
your pet can go outside or have a clean litter box
when needed.
- Glucocorticoid drugs will suppress your animal’s
immune system and may increase the risk for in-
fec tion. If your pet shows any signs of fever
(103-105°F in most dogs and cats), or acts like it
has a urinary tract infection (frequent or painful
urination) you should contact your veterinarian
immediately.

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Prednisone
Prednisolone
(continued)

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use? (continued from previous page)

- Some animals on long-term therapy with prednisone will develop Cushing’s disease. If your pet shows signs of dry hair coat or hair loss, weakness and muscle loss, darkening of the skin, or develops a pot-belly, you should contact your veterinarian.
- Some animals may become aggressive while on prednisone. You should contact your veterinarian if this behavior change occurs or does not go away with time.
- Prednisone will cause changes in your pet’s insulin requirements if it is a diabetic. You should ask your veterinarian for instructions on how to deal with these changes if your pet is receiving insulin injections.

How Should It Be Given?

- Prednisone and other glucocorticoid drugs should be given orally with food to reduce the chances of stomach ulcers or irritation. If given once daily, prednisone is usually given in the morning to dogs and horses, and in the evening to cats as this will more closely mimic their natural hormone cycles.
- 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 prednisone and prednisolone orally once to twice daily. Dogs usually receive prednisone in the morning and cats usually receive it in the evening if only given once daily as this will more closely mimic their natural hormone cycles. Commercially available prednisone liquids are very repulsive to cats. Your pharmacist may compound a specially flavored oral liquid of prednisone or prednisolone to increase your cat’s acceptance of the medication.
- **Horses:** Horses generally do not receive long-term glucocorticoid therapy, but if they do, they receive it orally once daily mixed in the feed. Prednisolone is a better choice than prednisone when given orally to horses. Prednisolone and prednisone are considered Class 4 drugs by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI).

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Prednisone and prednisolone should be stored at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.