Propranolol

Inderal® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Propranolol is a drug used to regulate your pet’s heartbeat and improve the performance of the heart in certain kinds of disease.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Propranolol should be used carefully, if at all, in animals with heart failure or a very slow heartbeat.
- Propranolol may cause lung spasm and should be used very carefully, if at all, in patients with asthma or other lung diseases.
- Propranolol is removed from the body by the liver and kidneys and should be used carefully in patients with liver and kidney disease.
- Propranolol can mask the signs of low blood sugar and should be used very carefully in pets with diabetes. If your diabetic pet receives propranolol, your veterinarian should tell you exactly what to watch for to make sure that it is not getting dangerously low blood sugar levels.
- Propranolol may also mask the signs of an overactive thyroid and should be used carefully if at all in patients with hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid).
- Propranolol should be used carefully in patients who are already being treated with a drug called digoxin as propranolol may cause the digoxin to become toxic in your pet.
- Many drugs will affect or be affected by propranolol. You should tell your veterinarian about any medications that you are giving your pet.
- 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?
- Propranolol does not have many side effects when used properly. Some animals may develop a very slow heartbeat, become more tired and depressed than usual, and have lower blood pressure than usual.
- Some animals may develop low blood pressure, low blood sugar, diarrhea, and difficulty breathing while receiving propranolol.

How Should It Be Given?
- Propranolol is usually given orally once to three times daily in pets. Oral doses are much higher than injectable or transdermal doses because of the effects of the stomach and liver on getting drugs into the blood.
- 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 propranolol orally once to three times daily.
- Horses: Horses don’t usually receive propranolol, but may get it orally three times daily. Because of the effects on blood pressure, a lower dose is usually started on horses and increased as the horse begins to tolerate the side effects of the medication. Propranolol is considered a Class 3 Drug by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI).

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