

Enrofloxacin, Oral

(en-roe-flox-a-sin)

Category: Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Baytril®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 22.7 mg, 68 mg, & 136 mg tablets (flavored); 68 mg tablets (unflavored). **Human:** None.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ This drug is best given on an empty stomach and without food, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it, give with food or small treat (no dairy products, antacids or anything containing iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Do not crush film-coated tablets, as the drug is bitter tasting and you may have a harder time getting your animal to take it.
- ▶ Do not give at the same time with other drugs or vitamins that contain calcium, iron, or aluminum (including sucralfate), as these can reduce the amount of drug absorbed.
- ▶ May cause joint abnormalities if used in young animals, during pregnancy, or while nursing.
- ▶ Most common side effects are vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea.
- ▶ Do not exceed dosing recommendations in cats, as blindness can result.

How is this medication useful?

Orally administered enrofloxacin is used to treat animals with certain bacterial infections.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this antibiotic for use in multiple species. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in additional species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with this medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side

effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

Keep it out of the reach of children.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in:

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it or drugs like it (eg, ciprofloxacin, marbofloxacin).
- ▶ Immature dogs during the rapid growth phase (between 2-8 months in small and medium-sized breeds and up to 18 months in large and giant breeds).
- ▶ Cats less than 12 months of age.
- ▶ Animals that are pregnant or nursing unless the benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to offspring.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ With a history of epilepsy or seizures.
- ▶ That have liver or kidney problems.
- ▶ That are dehydrated.

If your pet has any of these conditions or signs, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Vomiting, nausea, reduced appetite.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Joint (cartilage) effects (trouble walking), especially in young growing animals.
- ▶ Central nervous system effects including stimulation or seizures (rare), especially in animals with liver or kidney problems.
- ▶ Blindness (cats). Using the drug longer than 30 days or if given at dosages above those labeled could cause blindness in cats.
- ▶ Watch for fever, rashes, or trouble breathing as these signs may indicate a drug allergy.
- ▶ No appetite or refuses to eat. Complete loss of appetite can sometimes cause liver problems (especially in cats).

If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of enrofloxacin could be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ This drug is best given without food on an empty stomach, but if your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give with food or small treat (no dairy products, antacids or anything containing iron) to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Do not crush film-coated tablets, as the drug is very bitter to taste and makes giving your animal its medicine much more difficult.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully and stored in the refrigerator and should be shaken well before each use. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes. Liquid forms of this drug should be discarded on the day your veterinarian or pharmacist has indicated.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication at room temperature, protected from light, and in its original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

- ▶ People with a known allergy to quinolones (eg, ciprofloxacin, marbofloxacin) should avoid contact with this product.
- ▶ Avoid skin and eye contact and wash hands well after giving it to your animal. In case of accidental contact with the eyes or skin, wash the area immediately with water.
- ▶ If skin contact occurs, avoid direct sunlight for a few hours because your skin may react.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash
- ▶ Do not save left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Oral enrofloxacin is banned from use in food animals. An injectable product is approved for use in cattle, but must be used exactly as it is labeled.
- ▶ Do not use in humans as it can cause serious central nervous system effects.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.