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**PRESCRIPTION ANIMAL REMEDY
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY**

Metacam®

0.5 mg/mL Oral Suspension For Cats



Composition

Each mL contains 0.5 mg meloxicam;
one drop contains 0.017 mg meloxicam.

Action

Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) compound of the oxicam group which acts by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. Meloxicam exerts anti-inflammatory, anti-exudative, analgesic and antipyretic effects. It inhibits leukocyte infiltration into the inflamed tissue and prevents bone and cartilage destruction. To a minor extent it also inhibits collagen-induced thrombocyte aggregation.

Indications

Alleviation of inflammation and pain in both acute and chronic musculo-skeletal disorders such as disco-spondylosis, arthropathy and soft tissue injuries.

Directions for use

Contraindications

This product is contraindicated for use in pregnant or lactating animals as no data has been established.

As for all NSAIDs use in any animal less than 6 weeks of age or in debilitated aged animals may involve additional risk. If use in such animals cannot be avoided careful clinical management may be required.

The use of the product is contra-indicated in animals suffering from cardiac, hepatic or clinical renal disease. Especially older cats considered for chronic treatment should be screened for pre-existing renal, hepatic or gastrointestinal disorders or hypovolaemia (using haematology, serum biochemical analysis and urinalysis as necessary), before administration of Metacam 0.5 mg/mL Oral Suspension for Cats.

This is also the case where there is the possibility of gastro-intestinal ulceration or bleeding, or where there is evidence of a haemorrhagic disorder or individual hypersensitivity to the product.

Precautions

Metacam Oral Suspension should not be administered concurrently with steroidal or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, aminoglycoside antibiotics or anti-coagulant agents. Concurrent administration of potential nephrotoxic drugs should be avoided.

Pre-treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs may result in additional or increased adverse effects and accordingly a treatment-free period with such drugs should be observed for at least 24 hours before commencement with Metacam Oral Suspension. The treatment-free period, however, should take into account the pharmacokinetic properties of the drugs used previously.

Avoid use in any dehydrated, hypovolaemic or hypotensive animal, as there is a potential risk of renal toxicity.

Response to long-term therapy should be monitored at three monthly intervals or more frequently as advised by the veterinarian.

Metacam® 0.5 mg/mL Oral Suspension for Cats should not be used following parenteral injection of meloxicam or any other NSAID as appropriate dosage regimens for such follow-up treatments have not been established.

Side Effects

Typical adverse reactions of NSAIDs may occur. These may include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, faecal occult blood, apathy and renal failure. Gastro-intestinal side effects are in most cases transient and disappear following termination of treatment but in rare cases may be serious. If gastro-intestinal side effects are persistent or of severity, treatment should be discontinued.

Dosage and Administration

For **3mL** pack size: Discard unused product 14 days after initial use.

For **15mL and 30 mL** pack size: Discard unused product 6 months after initial use.

Shake well before use.

Should be administered orally either mixed with food or directly into the mouth around meal times.

Initial treatment is a single dose of 0.1 mg meloxicam/kg bodyweight on the first day. Treatment is to be continued once daily by oral administration (at 24 hour intervals) at a maintenance dose of 0.05 mg/kg bodyweight.

For longer term treatment, once clinical response has been observed (within 7 days), the dose of Metacam can be adjusted to the lowest effective individual dose reflecting that the degree of pain and inflammation associated with chronic musculoskeletal disorders may vary over time. Should longer term treatment be contemplated, the prescribing veterinarian should observe current best practice including, but not limited to, regular monitoring of relevant clinical and biochemical parameters.

A clinical response is normally seen within 7 days. Treatment should be discontinued after 14 days at the latest if no clinical improvement is apparent.

Particular care should be given with regard to the accuracy of dosing. The recommended dose should not be exceeded. Please carefully follow the instructions of the veterinarian.

The suspension can be given using the drop dispenser of the bottle for cats of any bodyweight. Alternatively for cats with a bodyweight over 2kg the Metacam measuring syringe (provided in the package) can be used.

	Dosing procedure using the bottle dropper
Initial Dose (Only on first day of treatment)	6 drops per kg
Maintenance Dose	3 drops per kg

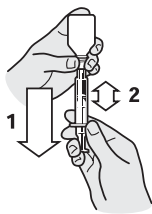
OR

	Dosing procedure using the syringe
Initial Dose (Only on first day of treatment)	Two times bodyweight of the cat (in kg)
Maintenance Dose	Bodyweight of cat (in kg)

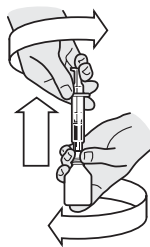
The syringe fits onto the drop dispenser of the bottle and has a kg bodyweight scale which corresponds to the maintenance dose.



Shake bottle well. Push down and unscrew bottle top. Attach the dosing syringe to the drop dispenser of the bottle by gently pushing.



Turn the bottle / syringe upside down. Pull the plunger out until the black line on the plunger corresponds to your cat's bodyweight in kilograms.



Turn the bottle right way up and with a twisting movement separate the dosing syringe from the bottle.



By pushing the plunger in, empty the contents of the syringe onto the food or directly into the mouth.

Australia

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See www.foodsafety.govt.nz for registration conditions

Overdose

In the event of an overdose, adverse reactions are expected to be more severe and more frequent.

In case of overdosing a symptomatic treatment should be initiated.

First Aid

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. *Phone Australia 131126; New Zealand 0800 764 766 (0800 POISON).*

Disposal

Dispose of empty container by wrapping with paper and putting in garbage.

Storage

Store below 25°C (Air Conditioning).

Presentation

Plastic squeeze dropper bottle containing 3 mL, 15 mL and 30 mL with a measuring syringe. The 1 mL syringe has a kg bodyweight scale for cats (2-10 kg) and has a pictogram showing a cat. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.