

Carprofen

Rimadyl® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Carprofen is used in dogs to treat pain and inflammation, due to osteoarthritis or after surgery or injuries. Carprofen is commonly known as an “NSAID” (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug).
- Dogs often show improvement very quickly after receiving this drug.

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

- Carprofen should not be given to cats for more than a single dose. It is generally recommended to not give this medication to cats.
- Carprofen should not be used in animals who are allergic to it or severely allergic to other drugs like it.
- Use this drug very cautiously, if at all, if your dog has active stomach or gastrointestinal ulcers or has had these kinds of ulcers in the past. Carprofen may make these ulcers worse or reappear.
- Speak with your veterinarian if your dog is taking any of the following medications: Other anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin or corticosteroids (*e.g.*, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone); furosemide (Lasix®), digoxin, methotrexate, sulfa drugs or oral antidiabetic drugs.
- If your animal has or has had heart, kidney or liver problems, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of giving your dog carprofen.
- It is not known if carprofen is safe to give pregnant, lactating or breeding dogs. Talk to your veterinarian before using this drug in those animals.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Carprofen is safe to use in the vast majority of dogs, and the risk of side effects occurring appear to be less than 1%. But rarely, serious side effects and sometimes death have been noted.
- The most commonly reported side effects in dogs taking carprofen are usually related to the gastrointestinal system. This may present as decreased appetite, vomiting (including blood in the vomit), diarrhea, or blood in the stools. If you note any of these, contact your veterinarian.
- Carprofen may also affect the kidneys or the liver. Tell your veterinarian immediately if your dog’s water intake or urinary habits have changed or if you see yellowing of the gums, skin or white of the eyes.

- Also immediately contact your veterinarian if your dog is lethargic (lacks energy), is uncoordinated, has seizures or exhibits changes in behavior.

How Should It Be Given?

- 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.
- 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:** Dogs usually receive this medication once or twice a day by mouth.
- If you are giving this drug every 12 hours (twice a day) and you miss a dose of this medication, you should give it either as soon as you remember or with the next dose.
- If giving this drug once daily and you miss a dose and it is within 12 hours of when you should have given it, give the dose. Otherwise skip this dose and give the next dose at the regular time. Do not double a dose when giving it once a day as this can be toxic to your dog.
- This medication may be given with food or alone, giving with food might reduce the chances of stomach problems occurring.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Because the chewable formulation of this drug may be very appealing to dogs, be sure to store in a secure area to prevent an accidental overdose.
- Keep the tablets stored in the original prescription vial at room temperature; do not expose them to high heat.
- Keep this medication away from children.
- Carprofen at this time is NOT considered to be safe to use in cats.
- If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, be sure to talk to your veterinarian.