

Piroxicam

Feldene® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Piroxicam's primary use in dogs and cats has been as a supplementary drug to use in the treatment of certain types of cancers, especially those found in the bladder. Piroxicam probably acts by enhancing the body's own ability to destroy cancer cells. Piroxicam is in the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) class of drugs and is commonly used in people for treating arthritic symptoms. While it can be used for this purpose in dogs, there are safer drugs to use.

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

- Piroxicam should not be used in animals who are allergic to it or severely allergic to other drugs like it (such as aspirin).
- Use this drug very cautiously, if at all, in animals that have active stomach or gastrointestinal ulcers or have had these kinds of ulcers in the past. Piroxicam can make these ulcers worse or reappear.
- Piroxicam should not be used in animals with kidney disease.
- If your animal has severe heart disease, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of piroxicam making edema (swelling) worse.
- Piroxicam must be used in cats very cautiously; there is little experience using this drug in this species and cats often do not tolerate these types of drugs well. When piroxicam is used in cats, it is generally not used for more than 7 days.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The most commonly reported side effects in animals taking piroxicam are usually related to it causing stomach bleeding and ulcers. This may present as decreased appetite, vomiting (including blood in the vomit), diarrhea, or blood in the stools. If you see "tarry" black stools contact your veterinarian. If stomach ulcers occur, your veterinarian may prescribe other medicines to help control them.
- Piroxicam may also affect the kidneys or the liver. Tell your veterinarian if your animal's urinary habits have changed while receiving this drug.
- Piroxicam may cause your animal to bleed longer after cuts than usual. This is usually not a serious problem, but contact your veterinarian if you note anything unusual.

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 a day by mouth.
- Try to give this medication with food as that may reduce the chances of stomach problems occurring.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it if it is within 12 hours of when you should have given it. Otherwise skip this dose and give the next dose at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your dog.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Keep the capsules stored in the original prescription vial at room temperature; do not expose them to high heat.
- Because of the differences in size between animals and people, your veterinarian may compound or have compounded by a pharmacy capsule strengths that are smaller than are originally manufactured.