



Digoxin

Strengthens the heartbeat and controls heart rate

Your vet has prescribed digoxin for your pet. It makes each heartbeat stronger and slows down the rate at which the heart beats. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

What is it used for?

- Treating some types of heart failure.
- Slowing the heart rate in some abnormal rhythms, such as atrial fibrillation.

How quickly does it work?

- It builds up over about a week to reach steady levels.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. It is best given with a small amount of food.
- Be very careful with the dose, as the gap between an effective and a harmful dose is small.

What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.
- Don't stop this medicine suddenly unless your vet tells you to.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Reduced appetite, vomiting or diarrhoea can be early signs that the level is too high.
- Tiredness or weakness.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Regular blood tests are needed to check the level of digoxin and kidney values.
- A blood test for digoxin levels is usually taken a week or so after starting, then regularly.
- Kidney values matter too, as the kidneys remove the drug from the body.

Important things to know

- Don't stop it suddenly unless your vet tells you to.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

Your questions answered

- **Why is appetite so important?** Loss of appetite is often the first sign levels are too high.
- **Is it for life?** Usually, yes, as part of heart treatment.

Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet stops eating, vomits or has diarrhoea.
- Your pet collapses, faints or seems confused.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

A drop in appetite is the most important early warning with digoxin. If your pet leaves their food, give us a ring.