



Pyridostigmine

Improves muscle strength in myasthenia gravis

Your vet has prescribed pyridostigmine for your pet. It stops the breakdown of acetylcholine, a messenger that tells muscles to contract, so messages get through better. 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 myasthenia gravis, a condition where messages between nerves and muscles don't pass properly, causing weakness.

How quickly does it work?

- Improvement in strength is often seen within days.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says, usually with food, every 8 to 12 hours.
- Your vet may advise raised feeding, so food and water pass down more easily if the food pipe is affected.

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

- Drooling, vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Muscle twitching or tremors.
- Too much can cause weakness, just like the disease itself.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Blood tests for the disease may be repeated. Chest X-rays may check the food pipe.

Important things to know

- Your pet may be at risk of inhaling food (aspiration pneumonia). Follow feeding advice carefully.
- 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

- **Is it for life?** Some dogs recover and can stop. Your vet will advise.
- **Why raised feeding?** It helps food reach the stomach if the food pipe is weak.

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

- Your pet has a cough, fast breathing or a fever. These can be signs of pneumonia.
- Your pet becomes very weak or collapses.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Feeding from a raised bowl, or even a special 'Bailey chair', can make a huge difference. Ask us how!