



# Amiodarone

*Helps control an irregular heartbeat*

Your vet has prescribed amiodarone for your pet. It slows the electrical signals in the heart muscle, helping the heart beat in a steadier rhythm. 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 certain abnormal heart rhythms, usually when other medicines haven't worked.

## How quickly does it work?

- It takes days to weeks to reach full effect, which is why doses may start higher.

## How do I give it?

- Give with food, exactly as the label says.
- Doses often start higher and are then reduced, so check the label each time you get a new supply.
- Keep giving any other heart medicines as directed.

## 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 tiredness.
- It can affect the liver and thyroid, so regular blood tests are needed.

## Monitoring and check-ups

- Heart checks (ECGs) and blood tests are an important part of treatment.
- Blood tests to check the liver and thyroid are usually done within the first month, then every few months.

## 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 does the dose keep changing?** A higher starting dose helps it build up faster, then it is reduced to a lower maintenance dose.
- **Is it for life?** Often, but your vet will review it at every check-up.

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

- Your pet collapses, faints or has a very slow or very fast heartbeat.
- Your pet has yellow gums or eyes, keeps vomiting or stops eating.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

## Mango's Top Tip

Learn to count your pet's breathing when asleep. Jot it down and bring the numbers to check-ups. We love a good chart!