



Gabapentin

For pain, seizures and calmer vet visits

Your vet has prescribed gabapentin for your pet. Gabapentin calms down over-excited nerves, so they send fewer pain signals and are less likely to trigger seizures. It also has a gentle calming effect. 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?

- Long-term or nerve-related pain, such as arthritis, back or neck problems, often alongside other painkillers.
- Helping to control seizures, usually together with other epilepsy medicines.
- Taking the edge off stress before a vet visit or journey, especially in cats.

How quickly does it work?

- For vet visits, it starts working within about 1 to 2 hours, so it is given before you set off.
- For long-term pain, you may see a difference within days, but the full benefit can take a few weeks as the dose is adjusted.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly the amount and timing on the label. It comes as capsules, tablets or a liquid.
- It can be given with or without food. Capsules can often be opened and the powder mixed into a little wet food. Ask us first.
- If your pet also takes an antacid, leave about two hours between them.
- **Never use gabapentin liquid meant for people.** Some contain xylitol, which is poisonous to dogs.

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.
- If your pet vomits within 30 minutes of a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Sleepiness and wobbliness are the most common, especially at the start. These usually settle within a few days.
- Cats given it before a vet visit may seem wobbly or dozy for the rest of the day.
- Less commonly, mild tummy upset.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Your vet will check how well the pain or seizures are controlled and adjust the dose.
- Pets with kidney disease may need a lower dose and occasional blood tests.

Important things to know

- Don't stop gabapentin suddenly, especially if it's for seizures. Your vet will tell you how to reduce it gradually.
- Tell your vet if your pet has kidney problems or is pregnant.
- It can add to the sleepiness caused by other calming or pain medicines.
- 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 safe long term?** Yes, many pets take it for months or years with regular check-ups.
- **Can my pet still have vaccines?** Yes, gabapentin doesn't affect vaccinations.

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

- Your pet is very drowsy, can't stand or seems collapsed.
- Your pet has a seizure, or seizures become more frequent.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Wobbly legs are common for the first few days. Keep rugs down on slippery floors and pop a baby gate at the top of the stairs until they find their feet. Squawk if you need us!