



Atenolol

Slows the heart and helps it work efficiently

Your vet has prescribed atenolol for your pet. It blocks the effect of adrenaline on the heart, which slows the heart rate and gives the heart more time to fill. 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 heart conditions, such as thickened heart muscle in cats or an abnormal heart rhythm.
- Sometimes used to control a fast heart rate caused by an overactive thyroid or high blood pressure.

How quickly does it work?

- It starts working within hours. Your vet may start with a low dose and increase it gradually.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. It can be given with or without food.
- Try to give it at the same time each day.

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

- Tiredness or reduced energy, especially at the start.
- Slow heartbeat, low blood pressure or wobbliness.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Heart rate and blood pressure checks help your vet get the dose just right.
- Heart scans may be repeated to monitor heart disease.

Important things to know

- **Don't stop it suddenly.** This can cause a dangerous rise in heart rate. Your vet will advise on reducing it.
- Tell your vet if your pet has asthma, diabetes or other breathing problems.
- 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?** Often, yes. Your vet will review it at each check-up.
- **Can my pet still exercise?** Yes, gentle exercise is fine. Your pet may tire a little sooner.

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

- Your pet faints, collapses or seems very weak.
- Your pet has difficulty breathing or is breathing very fast at rest.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Counting sleeping breaths is a great home check. Under 30 breaths a minute is usually a good sign, but ask us what's normal for your pet.