



Steroids

Prednisolone, dexamethasone and similar medicines

Your vet has prescribed a steroid (corticosteroid) for your pet. Steroids are man-made versions of cortisol, a natural hormone. They reduce inflammation and calm the immune system. 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?

- Reducing inflammation, allergies and itching.
- Calming the immune system in immune-related diseases.
- Treating some cancers and hormone conditions.

How quickly does it work?

- They usually start working within hours to a day or two.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says, usually with food and in the morning for dogs.
- The dose is often reduced gradually over time, so check the label each time.

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

- Increased thirst, hunger and peeing.
- Panting, weight gain or muscle loss with long-term use.
- Increased risk of infections, including urine infections.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Blood and urine tests may be done with long-term use.
- Your vet will aim for the lowest dose that controls the condition.

Important things to know

- **Don't stop steroids suddenly** if they have been given for more than a few days. Your vet will reduce the dose gradually.
- Don't give with anti-inflammatory painkillers (NSAIDs).
- Tell your vet if your pet has diabetes or an infection.
- 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

- **Are steroids dangerous?** Used carefully, they are very safe and effective.
- **Why is my pet so hungry?** It's a common side effect. Stick to their normal food.

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

- Your pet vomits blood or has black tarry stools.
- Your pet becomes very weak, lethargic or collapses.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Extra hungry? Swap some treats for crunchy veg (like carrot or green beans for dogs) to keep weight in check.