



Vintage and Alexander-Wallace Veterinary Practice

Alendronate

Helps control high blood calcium

Your vet has prescribed alendronate for your pet. It sticks to the surface of the bones and slows down the cells that break bone down, so less calcium is released into the blood. 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?

- Mainly used in cats with high calcium levels in the blood when no other cause can be treated.
- It works by slowing down the release of calcium from the bones.

How quickly does it work?

- It works slowly. Calcium levels usually start to fall over several weeks.

How do I give it?

- Give on an empty stomach, usually after an overnight fast, with nothing else by mouth for a while afterwards.
- Follow every tablet straight away with water, food paste or a little butter on the lips so it doesn't sit in the food pipe.
- Never crush or split tablets unless your vet tells you to. Doses are often weekly, so mark the day on your calendar.

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 soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Irritation or ulcers in the food pipe if the tablet gets stuck. Signs include drooling, gulping or pain when eating.
- Occasional vomiting or reduced appetite.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Regular blood tests are needed to check calcium and kidney values.
- Blood tests are usually repeated a few weeks after starting, then every few months.
- Your vet may also check your cat's teeth and mouth, as problems with jaw bones are a rare side effect in people.

Important things to know

- Don't give it alongside calcium supplements, antacids or other medicines at the same time of day.
- 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 the strict fasting rules?** Food, even a nibble, stops the tablet being absorbed.
- **How long will my cat need it?** Often long term. Your vet will review it at each check-up.

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

- Your pet drools, gags, has difficulty swallowing or stops eating.
- Your pet vomits blood or seems in pain around the chest or throat.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

The water chaser is the most important step! A small syringe of water straight after the tablet helps it go all the way down.