



Methotrexate

A chemotherapy medicine

Your vet has prescribed methotrexate for your pet. It blocks a vitamin (folate) that fast-dividing cells, like cancer cells, need to multiply. 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 cancers, such as lymphoma.
- Occasionally used for immune-related diseases.

How quickly does it work?

- The response is judged over several weeks.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. It is often given weekly, so mark a calendar.
- Give with or without food.

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

- Vomiting, diarrhoea or reduced appetite.
- Reduced blood cell counts, which can increase infection risk.
- Rarely, liver or kidney problems.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Blood cell counts, liver and kidney values are checked regularly.

Important things to know

- This is a chemotherapy-type medicine. Wear disposable gloves to handle it and wash your hands afterwards.
- Never split or crush tablets or open capsules. Anyone pregnant, breastfeeding or trying for a baby should not handle it.
- After each dose, wear gloves to clear up urine, faeces or vomit and double-bag it. Ask us how many days to do this for.
- Don't give with anti-inflammatory painkillers (NSAIDs) or some antibiotics unless your vet says so.
- 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 weekly?** Weekly dosing works well and reduces side effects.
- **Can I give a vitamin supplement?** Check with us first, as some interfere with treatment.

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

- Your pet has a fever, is very tired or seems unwell.
- Your pet has unusual bleeding, bruising, or keeps vomiting.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Weekly doses are easy to forget. Choose a day (like 'Methotrexate Monday') and set a reminder.