

DRUG INFORMATION: Cephalexin also known as Keflex®, Keftab®, and Biocef®

Why is this prescribed for your pet?

Cephalexin is an oral antibiotic prescribed to treat infections. It is part of the cephalosporin class.

Storage:

This medication should be stored at room temperature in a tight, light-resistant, childproof container. It should be kept away from all children and other household pets. Liquid forms of this medication can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 14 days and should be shaken well before use.

How to use this medication:

- For maximum effectiveness, be sure to administer this medication exactly as your veterinarian
 prescribed it. Do not skip doses and do not stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty
 adminstering the medication, consult your veterinarian or pharamacist.
- If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is within a few hours of the next regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double the dose, as this can be toxic.
- This medication can interact with some other drugs. Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any
 and all food and drugs you currently give your animal. Consult your veterinarian before giving your
 animal any new food or drugs.
- Always give the entire course of medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the treatment is not
 finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics, causing the
 infection to worsen.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats typically receive this medication as a capsule, tablet, or liquid, two to three times daily.
- Horses: Oral cephalexin may cause life-threatening diarrhea or colic in horses.

Side Effects:

- There are not many side effects with cephalexin; however, some animals may experience stomach upset, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Giving this medication with food may help reduce these side effects.
- This medication may cause excessive salivation, panting, and excitability in some dogs.
- Vomiting and fever have been experienced in some cats. A temperature greater than 103° is considered a fever in cats.
- In high doses, this medication can cause kidney damage.
- Some animals may experience rashes from this medication.

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With certain brands of dip sticks used to test for sugar in the urine of diabetic animals, this medication may cause a false positive.

Additional Information:

- If your animal is allergic to penicillin or penicillin-like drugs, they should not take cephalexin.
- If you are allergic to penicillin or penicillin-like drugs you should avoid handling this drug.
- This medication is eliminated through the kidneys. Animals with kidney failure may receive a lower dose of the medication.
- This medication should be used with caution in epileptic animals.
- This medication should be used with caution in pregnant animals because cephaloporins are known to cross into the womb.
- It is normal for this medication to have a sulfar-like odor that is similar to cat urine.
- If your animal currently has or has had any of the above conditions, speak with your veterinarian about the risks and benefits of using this medication.

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