

Hydrocodone Bitartrate - Main

Hydrocodone Bitartrate - Liquid Solution (Dogs)

Hydrocodone Bitartrate - Tablet (Dogs)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This drug is a medication that is used in dogs and cats to suppress dry and non-productive coughing. Some formulations may also contain Guaifenesin which helps to loosen mucous and others contain Homatropine methyl bromide which has a drying effect on secretions. Hydrocodone is available in the form of a tablet and as a liquid.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A cough suppressant

Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Hydrocodone is a controlled substance. This is a medication that has the potential for abuse. These medications can assist in providing appropriate patient care but also require a valid veterinary client-patient relationship and a veterinary prescription. Further legislation regarding storage, prescription, dispensing, and record keeping have been put in place to prevent drug abuse.

Hydrocodone is a narcotic antitussive and analgesic

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To treat dry and harsh coughing such as with kennel cough, chronic bronchitis and collapsing trachea

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Animals with liver disease

Animals with blood disorders

Animals with certain kidney disease

Animals with certain vascular disease

Animals that are dehydrated

Animals that may be pregnant or nursing

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this drug should not take this medication

DIRECTIONS: Hydrocodone is a controlled human medication that must be used very cautiously in dogs and only under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

This medication should be given with food to reduce stomach upset.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication.

Periodic blood work to monitor its effects on the body is also advised if long term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED? If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

When your pet will need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medications can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Hydrocodone should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Do not give your pet aged cheese products as they can interact with this medication causing problems with blood pressure.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing nausea, vomiting and constipation

This medication can affect the central nervous system causing sedation and drowsiness

If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Hydrocodone in conjunction with: acepromazine, antihistamines, phenobarbital, selegiline, and certain medications in flea and tick collars

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Hydrocodone

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment. As with all prescribed medicines, Hydrocodone should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about Hydrocodone. If you have any questions or concerns about Hydrocodone or the condition it was prescribed for, please contact your veterinarian.