

### Prescription Label

Patient Name:

Species:

Drug Name & Strength:

Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):

Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:

Refills:

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

## Epsiprantel

(ep-si-**pran**-tel)

**Description:** Antiparasitic (Tapeworms)

**Other Names for this Medication:** Cestex®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 12.5 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg, & 100 mg oral tablets. **Human:** None.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

### Key Information

- ▶ Oral drug used to treat tapeworms in dogs & cats. Not much drug is absorbed when given orally (by mouth), but it is still effective for killing tapeworms.
- ▶ Give with food.
- ▶ Adverse Effects: GI effects (eg, vomiting, diarrhea) are possible, but not likely.
- ▶ Because the worm may be partially or completely digested, worm fragments may not be seen in the feces after treatment.
- ▶ A single dose is usually effective, but measures should be taken to prevent reinfection, particularly against tapeworm infections (ie, *Dipylidium caninum*) associated with flea infestations, by treating the animal and its environment for fleas.

### How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs and cats for treating some types of tapeworms. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

### What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with this drug, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well

it did or didn't work.

- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

### **How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?**

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 days; however, you will not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your veterinarian will need to run further tests to determine if the medication is working appropriately. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days.

### **When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?**

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That are less than 7 weeks of age. The label specifically states to not use in these animals.

If your animal matches either of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the medication versus the benefits.

### **What are the side effects of this medication?**

***Uncommon side effects seen with this medicine, that are usually are not serious, include:***

- ▶ Vomiting.
- ▶ Diarrhea.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

### **If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?**

Overdoses are unlikely to cause harm, but if you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### **How should this medication be given?**

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ The drug is best given with food.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication is usually given once. Animals that are re-infected will need to be retreated.

### **What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

### **How should I store this medication?**

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

### **Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?**

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

**How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?**

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

**What other information is important for this medication?**

- ▶ Due to the digestive process, tapeworm fragments may not be seen in the stool. Always pick up your animal’s droppings as soon as possible.
- ▶ When picking up droppings from your animal, be sure to always wear gloves, place the feces in a sealed bag, and throw in the regular trash. Wash hands well after cleaning up after your animal.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

**If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**

Special Instructions:

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