

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup> SMITH<sup>®</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501  
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

## Corticosteroid Ophthalmic Preparations

(Decadron, Pred Forte, Econopred Plus)

### Common Drug Name

Corticosteroid ophthalmic preparations

### Common Brand Names

Decadron (dexamethasone), Pred Forte (prednisolone), Econopred Plus (prednisolone)

Generic products are available.

### Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant container.

### Uses

Corticosteroids, such as prednisolone or dexamethasone, are used to treat inflammation of the eye.

### Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty applying the medication, contact your veterinarian.

If discharge is present, the area should be cleansed with a sterile eyewash solution prior to applying the ointment or solution.

Shake the solution well before using. When applying the ophthalmic solution, place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling. Rest your other hand on top of the pet's head. Squeeze the drops into the corner of the eye, taking care not to touch the dropper to the eye surface. Continue to hold the head back for a moment while the drops disperse over the whole eye surface.

When applying an ointment, place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling. Pull down gently on the lower lid with a finger or thumb, depending upon which eye you are treating. Rest your other hand on top of the pet's head. Be sure the tip of the tube is pointed away from your pet's eye so if your pet jerks, the tube tip will not injure

This information may not cover all possible uses, directions, side effects, precautions, allergic reactions, drug interactions, or withdrawal times. Always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your pet.

the eye. Hold the tube of ointment about one inch from the eye and apply a short ribbon of ointment along the inner edge of the lower lid, starting at the inside corner of the eye. Rotate the tube when you reach the outer portion of the eye to help detach the ointment from the tube. Have your pet blink, and gently hold the eyelid shut. Gently massage the closed eyelid to disperse the ointment.

Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. Prevent your pet from bumping into things and becoming injured.

Never touch the dropper to the pet's eye, lids, or eyelashes. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the dropper or tube tip with your fingers, as this will also contaminate the medication.

Always wash your hands before and after applying this medication.

If you are applying more than one medication to the eye, allow 5 minutes between applications so one medication is not washed out by the next. Be sure not to interchange the caps of the medications.

If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the application you missed and go back to the regular schedule.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

### Possible Side Effects

Side effects are unusual with this medication.

If ingested, the most common side effect of corticosteroids is an increase in the amount of drinking and urinating. Less commonly may see an increased appetite and weight gain, panting, diarrhea, vomiting, and behavior changes.

### Precautions

Do not use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to any of the ingredients.

Do not use in fungal or viral infections of the eye before healing has started. Also do not use if an ulcer on the eye could be present, since it could cause the ulcer to worsen or rupture. Therefore, an ophthalmic exam by a veterinarian is necessary before using these products.

Prolonged use may result in a serious bacterial or fungal infection.

Prevent ingestion of the medication. If ingested at high doses or for extended periods, corticosteroids can cause premature birth. In dogs, rabbits, and rodents, corticosteroids can cause birth defects.

Use with caution in animals with diabetes mellitus or Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism).

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the eye examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with corticosteroid ophthalmic preparations.

### Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using corticosteroid ophthalmic preparations with vitamins and supplements, since interactions may occur.

### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Adverse reactions and toxicities are unlikely if used according to directions.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any unusual symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

*Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.*