

Diethylstilbestrol (DES)

Common Drug Name

Diethylstilbestrol (DES)

Common Brand Names

The drug is not commercially available, and must be compounded.

Storage

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

Uses

Diethylstilbestrol is a type of estrogen. It is used for the treatment of urinary incontinence in dogs. May also be used to treat prostate hypertrophy (enlargement), certain types of cancers, and reproductive conditions.

Dose and Administration

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

Most dogs being treated with DES for urinary incontinence need to be treated long term, but some dogs may need to be treated seasonally or for several months.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

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

Possible Side Effects

Side effects are less common when used to treat estrogen responsive urinary incontinence. At higher doses or long-term use, may see lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, increased thirst, and urination. May also see bone marrow suppression, which could result in bruising, bleeding, anemia, and increased risk of infection. In females may see signs of estrus (coming into heat), vaginal discharge, or pyometra (infection in the uterus). Use in males may cause feminization.

Consult your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of the above side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it or drugs similar to it.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young). It can cause abortions and birth defects.

Do not use in animals with cancers that may be caused by worsened by estrogens such as mammary (breast) cancer.

Do not use in animals with bone marrow disorders.

Prolonged use may cause ovarian cancer.

Do not use in males that are to be used for breeding.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with diethylstilbestrol.

Human Precautions

Pregnant women, or women trying to become pregnant, should avoid contact with DES or any estrogen-containing drug.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using diethylstilbestrol (DES) with vitamins and supplements, rifampin, phenobarbital, phenylbutazone, and other drugs that increase liver enzymes, anticoagulants (such as warfarin), or corticosteroids, since interactions may occur.

No known food interactions.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see any of the side effects listed above. If you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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