

# 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.

## Pimobendan

(Vetmedin)

### Common Drug Name

Pimobendan

### Common Brand Names

Vetmedin (veterinary form)

No generic products are available.

### Storage

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

### Uses

Pimobendan is a medication that increases the ability of the heart to pump blood. It is used for the management of the signs of mild, moderate, or severe (modified NYHA Class II, III, or IV) congestive heart failure in dogs due to atrioventricular valvular insufficiency (AVVI) or dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).

### Dose and Administration

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

Pimobendan should be given by mouth. Unless otherwise recommended by your veterinarian, the total daily dose should be divided into 2 portions. The portions should be administered 12 hours apart (i.e., morning and evening). The tablets are scored and dosage should be provided to the nearest half tablet increment.

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

Potential side effects include poor appetite, lethargy, diarrhea, labored breathing, weakness, incoordination, fainting, accumulation of fluid in the lungs or abdomen, and cough. Sudden death may also occur. Consult your veterinarian 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 pimobendan.

Pimobendan should not be given to animals with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, aortic stenosis, or any other clinical condition where increased cardiac output is inappropriate.

The safety of the drug has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young). If the mother is receiving pimobendan, consider placing the offspring on milk replacer after they have received the colostrum (first milk immediately after birth).

Use with extreme caution in animals prone to cardiac arrhythmias.

The safety of pimobendan has not been determined in dogs with asymptomatic heart disease or in heart failure caused by conditions other than AVVI or DCM.

The safety of pimobendan has not been evaluated in dogs younger than 6 months of age, or in dogs with congenital heart defects, diabetes mellitus, or other serious metabolic diseases.

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

### Drug, Food and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements your pet is taking while your pet is receiving pimobendan.

Consult with your veterinarian before using pimobendan with verapamil, propranolol, theophylline, and pentoxifylline, since interactions may occur.

### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see the same signs as those listed under "Possible Side Effects". If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or 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.*