Ketoconazole  
(Nizoral)

**Common Drug Name**  
Ketoconazole

**Common Brand Names**  
Nizoral (human form)  
Generic products are available.

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

**Uses**  
Dogs and Cats: Ketoconazole is used for the treatment of serious fungal infections. It may also be used against some yeast and dermatophyte (ringworm) infections. It suppresses the adrenal gland, so is used for the treatment of hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing’s disease) in dogs. May be used to maximize the effects of cyclosporine.

Ferrets, Reptiles, Rabbits, Chinchillas, Gerbils, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs, Rats, and Mice: It is common to use ketoconazole for the treatment of fungal infections.

Birds: It is common to use ketoconazole for the treatment of Candida infections.

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

Dose and frequency of administration depends upon the disease and response to treatment. It may be necessary to treat several months, and may take one or two weeks to start seeing improvement.

Tablets are given by mouth, and should be given with food, preferably a fatty meal. However, contact your veterinarian prior to adding fat to your pet’s diet.

**Birds:** May be added to the food or drinking water at different concentrations.

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**  
May see lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, or liver toxicity (jaundice - yellowing of gums, skin or eyes) or bleeding problems. Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these.

May see a reversible lightening of the haircoat.

Signs of an allergic reaction 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 to similar products.

Not for use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young). May cause infertility in males.

Not for use in animals with liver disease or clotting problems.

If on high oral doses of ketoconazole, may need corticosteroid therapy during periods of acute stress.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing (especially monitoring liver enzymes) necessary prior to and during treatment with ketoconazole.

**Drug and Food Interactions**  
Consult your veterinarian before using ketoconazole with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, Mitotane, cisapride, astemizole, terfenadine, warfarin, or other anticoagulants, other hypoglycemic agents, theophylline, cyclosporine, and methylprednisolone, since interactions may occur.

Do not give with antacids or other products that alkalinize the stomach pH level. If needed, these products may be given 2 hours after the ketoconazole dose.

Blood levels of ketoconazole, phenytoin, and rifampin may be altered when these medications are used together.

May increase digoxin levels; they should be monitored while giving ketoconazole.

May behave synergistically with acyclovir.

Use cautiously with other medications that can also cause liver damage.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**  
May see signs similar to those under 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.

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