Plumb's Drug Handouts

# Amantadine

(*a-**man**-ta-dine*)

**Key Information**

- Used to manage chronic pain in dogs and cats
- May take several weeks to reach full effect
- May be given with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.
- Diarrhea and gas are the most likely side effects.
- Agitation may occur, especially early in treatment. Your animal may appear anxious, nervous, upset, or unable to relax. Contact your veterinarian if signs are serious or continue.

**Note:** The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

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| **Description** | • Supplemental pain reliever<br>• Available as tablets, capsules, and an oral liquid |
| **Other common names** | *Symmetrel* |
| **Uses** | This medication is not FDA approved specifically for animals, but it is approved for use in humans. At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used extra-label for:<br>• Additional pain relief in dogs and cats that are already taking other pain medications |
| **Before this medication is given** | No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian:<br>• Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking<br>• Any conditions or diseases your animal has now or has had in the past<br>• Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past<br>• The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing |
| **Warnings for animals** | Do **not** use in patients that:<br>• Are allergic to it<br>• That have severe kidney disease<br>Use with **caution** in animals with:<br>• Kidney, liver, or heart problems<br>• Certain skin inflammatory conditions<br>• Seizure disorders<br>• Certain types of glaucoma<br>Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication. |
| **Warnings for humans** | • Wash your hands after handling any medication. |
| **How do I give this medication?** | • Give with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.<br>• For liquid medications, measure with an oral syringe, medicine cup, or dosing spoon. Do not use household measuring devices.<br>*Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.* |
| **Side effects** | **Common** – contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time:<br>• Agitation (appearing anxious, nervous, upset, or unable to relax)<br>• Gas |

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| | • Soft stools or diarrhea<br>• Vomiting |
| **How will I know it's working?** | • You may see some improvement in your animal's signs after a few days, but it may take several weeks for this medication to reach its full effect.<br>*Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.* |
| **How long will the medication effects last?** | • This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose.<br>• It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney function. |
| **How long do I give it for?** | This medication can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. You may need to refill the prescription. |
| **Overdose** | Signs of overdose may include tremors, uncoordinated movement, salivation, vomiting, behavior changes, seizures, or trouble breathing.<br>If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (consultation fee applies):<br>• **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**: (888) 426-4435<br>• **Pet Poison Helpline**: (855) 764-7661<br>*Have the product or label with you if possible.* |
| **Missed dose** | In most cases, if you miss a dose:<br>• Give it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule.<br>If it is close to the time for the next dose:<br>• Skip the missed dose.<br>• Give the next dose at the next scheduled time.<br>• Continue the regular dosing schedule.<br>*If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up or give extra doses.* |
| **Storage** | • Store in the original container at room temperature.<br>• Protect from light.<br>• Keep out of reach of children and animals. |
| **Disposal** | Do **not** flush this medication down the toilet or wash down the sink. Options for disposing of unused or expired medications include:<br>• Drug take-back sites: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities.<br>• Home disposal: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal in a plastic bag, and throw away in the trash.<br>*Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.* |
| **Questions?** | Talk to your veterinarian. |

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