Plumb's Drug Handouts

Lactated Ringer's Solution

(*lak-tayt-ed ring-ers*)

Key Information

- Used to provide fluid and electrolytes, such as sodium, potassium, and calcium
- This solution is injected under the skin (subcutaneously) using an administration set and sterile needle.
- You will likely notice a fluid bubble under the skin at the site of administration. Fluids will be absorbed slowly over time, and the fluid bubble should be gone before the next dose is due.

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.

Description	• Fluid and electrolyte replacement • Available as an injectable solution
Other common names	LRS
Uses	Lactated Ringer's solution may be prescribed by your veterinarian for: • Treatment or prevention of dehydration • Electrolyte replacement
Before this medication is given	No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian: • Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking • Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past • Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past • The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing
Warnings for animals	Do **not** use in patients: 4 With heart failure 4 With *severe* kidney disease 4 With water retention Use with **caution** in patients: 4 With liver disease 4 With high potassium levels (*hyperkalemia*) 4 With high calcium levels (*hypercalcemia*) 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. • To prevent needlestick injuries, dispose of used needles immediately after use. • Needlestick injuries can lead to pain and infection. If you experience a needlestick injury, contact your physician.
How do I give this medication?	• Inject fluids under the skin (*subcutaneously*) as directed by your veterinarian. • Fluids are usually given using an administration set (also called an *IV set* or *drip set*) and a sterile needle. • Make sure the solution is clear before administration. Do not use if solution is cloudy or discolored, or if particles are present. *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: • Stinging or burning at the injection site • Fluid accumulation under the skin at the site of administration. Fluids will be absorbed slowly over time, and the fluid bubble should be gone before the next dose is due. **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs:

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	• Change in breathing or cough • Redness, tenderness, or drainage at or around the injection site. These may be signs of an infection.
How will I know it's working?	• Fluids should start to have an effect within 24 hours. Your animal should start feeling better as the fluid is absorbed. *Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.*
How long will the medication effects last?	Fluids will last for different lengths of time depending on how much fluid was given and your animal's condition. The effects may last several hours to days.
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	Overdose can lead to fluid retention and trouble breathing. If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (consultation fee applies): • **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**: (888) 426-4435 • **Pet Poison Helpline**: (855) 764-7661 *Have the product or label with you if possible.*
Missed dose	In most cases, if you miss a dose: • Give it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule. If it is close to the time for the next dose: • Skip the missed dose. • Give the next dose at the next scheduled time. • Continue the regular dosing schedule. *If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up or give extra doses.*
Storage	• Store unopened fluid bags at room temperature. Once spiked with an administration set, store in-use fluid bags as directed by your veterinarian. • Do not remove the fluid bag from the plastic overwrap until ready to use. • Keep out of reach of children and animals.
Disposal	• Lactated Ringer's solution does not contain preservatives. Opened fluid bags and administration sets should be discarded and replaced as directed by your veterinarian. • Unused, leftover, or expired lactated Ringer's solution can be discarded by cutting the top of the bag and pouring it down the drain. • Empty plastic fluid containers and administration sets can be discarded in household trash. Leave the administration set connected to the bag to avoid exposure to the sharp spike and make sure the needle has been disconnected. • Dispose of used needles in a sharps container. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help you obtain sharps containers. • Dispose of sharps containers when approximately ¾ full. Check with your local trash removal services or health department to see which disposal methods are available in your area. *Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.*
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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