Plumb's Drug Handouts

Meloxicam

(*mel-**ox**-i-kam*)

Key Information

- This is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that helps relieve pain and inflammation.
- Giving this medication with food may prevent stomach upset.
- Provide access to plenty of drinking water while giving this medication.
- Do not give with any other prescription or over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medications.
- Meloxicam can stay in the body for several days after it is stopped. Do not give other NSAID drugs or steroids for 5 to 7 days afterward.
- Common side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, or mild changes in appetite.

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	• Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory pain reliever (NSAID) • Available as tablets, capsules, and oral liquid suspensions
Other common names	*Loxicom*, *Meloxidyl*, *Metacam*, *Mobic*, *OstiLox*
Uses	FDA-approved uses in animals: • Treatment of pain and inflammation in dogs due to osteoarthritis At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use).
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 has now 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 that: • Are allergic to it, other NSAIDs, or aspirin • Are taking other NSAIDs, aspirin, or steroids • Are not eating normally Use with **caution** in: • Cats • Dogs younger than 6 months old • Elderly patients • Animals that have stomach or intestinal ulcers or have had them in the past • Animals that are vomiting or have diarrhea • Animals that are dehydrated or taking diuretics like furosemide or hydrochlorothiazide • Animals that have kidney, liver, or heart problems • Animals that have a bleeding disorder • Animals that are pregnant, nursing, or used for breeding 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.

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How do I give this medication?	• Give with food to help prevent stomach upset. • Provide access to plenty of fresh drinking water. Keeping your animal hydrated may reduce the risk for kidney problems. • If using a liquid, shake well before each dose. • Only measure liquids using the syringe or dropper provided with the medication. • When giving liquid meloxicam to animals less than 10 pounds, give the dose on top of a small amount of food. Do not give directly into the mouth. • With long-term use, periodic physical examinations and blood tests are needed to check your animal's liver and kidney function. Do not miss these important follow-up visits. *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: • Vomiting • Diarrhea or soft stool • Decreased appetite **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs: • Black, tarry, or bloody stools • Bloody vomit, which may be bright red or look like coffee grounds • Changes in activity levels, uncoordinated movement or weakness, seizures, or development of aggression • Changes in drinking or urinary habits • Change in color or smell of urine, especially in cats • Skin changes like redness, scabs, or itchiness • Yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (*jaundice*)
How will I know it's working?	• Your animal should start feeling better within 1 to 2 days. *Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.*
How long will the medication effects last?	• The effect of this medication may continue for several days after the last dose. • It may last longer if your animal has reduced liver or 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	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.*

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Storage	• Store in original container at room temperature. • 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: • Drug take-back sites: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities. • Home disposal: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal in a plastic bag, and throw away in the trash. *Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.*
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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