Plumb's Drug Handouts

Methocarbamol

(*meth-oh-**kar**-ba-mole*)

Key Information

- Muscle relaxer used in dogs, cats, and horses
- May be given with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.
- This medication can cause dark or blue-green urine, but this is harmless.
- Common side effects include drowsiness, drooling, stumbling, clumsiness, and vomiting.

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	• Muscle relaxer • Available as tablets
Other common names	*Robaxin*
Uses	FDA-approved uses in animals: • Reducing muscle spasms caused by inflamed or injured muscles in dogs, cats, and horses At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use), such as: • Muscle relaxation in dogs with intervertebral disk disease
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 animals that are allergic to it Use with **caution** in: • Animals with seizure disorders • Animals with liver or kidney disease • Working or service animals. They may become too tired to perform their duties. 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. *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: • Drowsiness • Drooling • Vomiting • Uncoordinated movement, stumbling, clumsiness, or weakness. Keep your animal in a safe area to avoid falls, such as an area away from stairs.

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	This medication can cause a temporary change in urine color. This is harmless and will go away when the medication is stopped. **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs: • Extreme drowsiness
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?	• This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose. • It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney or liver 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.*
Storage	• Store in original container at room temperature. • Store away from light and excess moisture. • 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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