Plumb's Drug Handouts

Probiotics

(*pro-bye-**ot**-icks*)

Key Information

- Probiotics are live, beneficial bacteria that can be used to support digestive health or help manage diarrhea.
- A variety of probiotic products are available that contain different types and amounts of bacteria. Use the specific products recommended by your veterinarian.
- Give this supplement as instructed by your veterinarian. Your veterinarian's instructions may be different than the instructions on the product.
- It is often recommended to give probiotics 1 to 2 hours before or several hours after any antibiotic. Follow your veterinarian's instructions.
- Probiotics are usually well tolerated. Stomach upset is possible, including vomiting, excess gas, or diarrhea.

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	• Supplement containing beneficial gut bacteria • Many veterinary probiotic products are available, including tablets, capsules, and powder packets. • Products contain different types and amounts of bacteria. Use the specific products recommended by your veterinarian.
Other common names	*Fortiflora*, *Proviable DC*, *Sivomixx 800*, *Visbiome*, and others
Uses	Various probiotic products are available that are labeled for use in dogs and cats. Uses vary between products but may include treatment of loose stools as well as support of normal liver, kidney, digestive, and immune systems.
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 supplement if your animal is pregnant or nursing

Warnings for animals	• Do **not** use in animals:
	  - That are allergic to any ingredient(s) or flavoring in the product
	• Use with **caution** in animals:
	  - With a decreased immune system
	  - That are severely ill
	  - With food allergies
	• These products are considered nutritional supplements and are not approved by the FDA. **Only use products recommended by your veterinarian to make sure you are using a safe, high-quality product that is most helpful for your animal.**
	• 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 or supplement.
How do I give this medication?	• Give with or without food. • Give this supplement as instructed by your veterinarian. Your veterinarian's instructions may be different than the instructions on the product. • It is often recommended to give probiotics 1 to 2 hours before or several hours after any antibiotic. Follow your veterinarian's instructions.

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	Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.
Side effects	Probiotics are usually well tolerated. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any further stomach upset, including nausea, vomiting, excessive gas, or diarrhea.
How will I know it's working?	• You should see some improvement in your animal's signs within a few days, and you should notice continued improvement over time. • It may take longer to see an effect if your animal's signs have been present for a long time. *Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.*
How long will the medication effects last?	The effects of this supplement can last for varying amounts of time, depending on the product, the reason for treatment, and your animal's normal intestinal bacteria.
How long do I give it for?	This supplement can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you.
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	• Probiotics should generally be stored in a cool, dry place, but storage requirements vary between products. Follow the storage instructions on the product label. • Keep out of reach of children and animals. - The flavored forms of this supplement are meant to be appealing to animals. Secure storage that is well out of reach is important to prevent accidental overdose.
Disposal	Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash down the sink. Discard any unused or expired product in the household trash.
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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