Plumb's Drug Handouts

Pyrantel (Dogs/Cats)

(*pie-**ran**-tel*)

Key Information

- Pyrantel is an antiparasitic agent used to treat a variety of intestinal parasites
- May be given with or without food
- Liquids must be shaken well before every dose.
- Dead worms may or may not be seen in feces after treatment.
- Side effects may include vomiting, diarrhea, or decreased 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	• Antiparasitic agent • Available as oral tablets and liquids
Other common names	*Nemex*
Uses	FDA-approved uses in dogs: • Treatment and prevention of roundworm and hookworm infections At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use), such as: • Treatment of other intestinal parasites in dogs • Treatment of intestinal parasites in cats and other species
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 liver disease • That are sick or frail 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. • If using a liquid, shake well before each dose. • Measure liquids using an oral syringe, medicine cup, or dosing spoon. Do not use household measuring devices. • Your veterinarian may recommend that you repeat the treatment after a couple weeks to make sure all parasites have been eliminated. *Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.*
Side effects	Contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time:

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	• Vomiting • Diarrhea • Decreased appetite
How will I know it's working?	• You may not be able to see the effects of this medication. Dead worms may or may not be seen in feces after treatment. • Your animal should start feeling better within 1 to 2 days. • Your veterinarian will need to run follow-up tests to see how well this medication is working. *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 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. • It is important to **finish the entire course of treatment**, even if your animal starts feeling better.
Overdose	Overdose signs may include fast breathing or difficulty walking. 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 the original container at room temperature. • Protect from light. • Keep out of reach of children and animals. - Some forms of this medication are flavored and 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. 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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