

## CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Updated: **October 2017**

# Pregabalin

- **Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.**
- **Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.**
- **This medicine has been prescribed for *your* pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.**

The medicine you have been given for your dog is called pregabalin. It may have a trade name such as Lyrica®, but often will just be called pregabalin.

### What is pregabalin?

Pregabalin belongs to a group of medicines called *anti-epileptics*. These drugs act on the brain to prevent epileptic seizures (fits). Some anti-epileptic drugs can also help relieve chronic pain and neuropathic pain (pain originating from damaged nerves).

### Why has my pet been prescribed pregabalin?

Pregabalin can be used in dogs to help treat epilepsy, chronic pain disorders and neuropathic pain.

### How should I store pregabalin?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

### How do I give pregabalin tablets or capsules to my pet?

Try to disguise them in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, the tablets or capsules can be placed carefully on the back of the pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

### How long will my pet need to take pregabalin?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients and could be for the rest of their life.

### What should I do if I run out of pregabalin?

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more pregabalin from your vet if your supply is getting low. If you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible. **Pregabalin**

**tablets or capsules should not be stopped suddenly.** The drug needs to be reduced gradually over time before it is withdrawn.

### What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you do miss a dose, give your pet the dose that they should have had **straight away**. Make sure the next dose is separated by at least 6 hours before reverting to normal dosing time. **DO NOT** give double doses to make up for missed doses.

### What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately.** Currently there is limited information available about pregabalin overdose in pets, but an overdose in people is unlikely to be fatal.

### Can my pet take pregabalin if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop or pharmacy. If you have any concerns about using pregabalin with other medications, please ask your vet for further advice.

### What are the possible side effects of pregabalin for my pet?

Pregabalin may cause your pet to become slightly incoordinated or unsteady and a bit drowsy. If your pet shows *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

### What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking pregabalin?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, **do not stop pregabalin suddenly** but contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

### What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets or capsules plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

### Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug, or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about pregabalin.

### The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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