

Clindamycin

Antirobe® or Cleocin® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Clindamycin is a type of antibiotic that is used to treat certain types of bacterial infections in dogs, cats and ferrets.
- Clindamycin also can be used to treat infections caused by certain types of parasites called protozoa, including the organism that causes Toxoplasmosis in cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Clindamycin should not be used in **horses, ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats), rabbits, hamsters, or guinea pigs** as it may cause severe diarrhea that can cause death.
- Clindamycin should not be given to animals allergic to it or drugs like it (*e.g.*, lincomycin).
- Animals with severe kidney or liver disease should only receive clindamycin with caution. Your veterinarian may reduce the dosage in your animal if this is the case.
- It is not known if clindamycin is safe to use during pregnancy.
- It should be used cautiously in nursing animals as clindamycin can enter into milk and can cause diarrhea in offspring.
- You should always give all of the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the entire course of treatment is not finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics and cause a worsening infection.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The most common side effects seen in dogs or cats with orally administered clindamycin are vomiting and loose stools.
- If diarrhea becomes bloody, severe, or lasts for several days contact your veterinarian.
- Allergic reactions are possible, but very rare.

How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Give this drug for the full course of treatment prescribed by your veterinarian, even if your pet is better or seems cured as bacteria may remain that could make the infection worse.
- Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Because some other drugs interact with this medication, especially other antibiotics, you should tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally once to two times daily as a tablet or liquid. Your veterinarian may also inject this medication.
- **Ferrets:** Ferrets usually receive this drug twice a day.
- **Horses:** Horses should generally not receive this medication as it can cause severe diarrhea.
- **Rabbits, Hamsters, Guinea pigs, Gerbils:** Should not receive this medication as it can cause severe diarrhea and death.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Clindamycin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- This medication may be stored at room temperature.
- If you are using the human-label oral solution (Cleocin® Pediatric), it should be discarded after two weeks.
- It often takes a few days for this medication to reduce the signs of infection in your animal, but if your animal does not show some improvement after several days of treatment, or if their condition gets worse, contact your veterinarian.