

Winchester Veterinary Group  
95 Cross Street  
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T: (781)-721-0707  
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## **USE OF NON-STERIODAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATIONS (NSAIDs) IN DOGS.**

**Rimadyl** (carprofen), **Deramaxx** (Deracoxib), **Meloxidyl/Metacam** (Meloxicam), and **Previcox** (Firocoxib) are all non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) used to treat a variety of musculoskeletal ailments in dogs. They have proven to be effective in controlling the pain associated with acute and chronic degenerative joint conditions (arthritis). They are also useful for treating pain or discomfort following many surgical procedures. When used properly, NSAIDs can be of genuine benefit to your dog.

These NSAIDs are specifically designed for use in dogs. They are well tolerated by the majority of dogs for both short- and long-term usage. If your pet is on long-term usage, we recommend periodic blood testing to ensure safety. The frequency of the bloodwork may vary, but in general obtaining a blood test 2-4 weeks after starting medication, then once or twice per year is advisable.

A small percentage of dogs treated with NSAIDs have developed gastrointestinal disturbances and in some cases liver damage has occurred. If any side effects should occur, it is important that they are detected early to avoid serious consequences.

**IF YOUR PET HAS BEEN ON ASPIRIN OR ANY OTHER NSAID, OR STERIOUD (EG. PREDNISONE) PLEASE CONTACT THE DOCTOR BEFORE STARTING THIS MEDICINE.**

**KEEP MEDICATION OUT OF REACH OF YOUR PET. THE FLAVORED TABLETS ARE IRRESISTABLE TO MANY DOGS. IF AN ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DOES OCCUR, CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!**

NSAIDs should **never be given on an empty stomach**. Administer each dose with some food to avoid gastrointestinal upset. The following are possible symptoms which may occur from using these drugs.

1. Decrease appetite
2. Lethargy
3. Vomiting
4. Diarrhea
5. Dark colored (black) stool
6. Blood in stool

**If you notice any of the above symptoms, discontinue giving the NSAID and call the hospital.** No further doses should be given until you have spoken with the doctor.

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**PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS WITH CHEWABLE MEDICATION**

Chewable medications can be very convenient and easy to administer to your pet, but pets may see them as treats. Childproof pill vials are **NOT** dog proof. Please exercise caution with chewable medications, and keep them stored safely where your pet cannot access them. It could save their life.

**IN THE CASE OF AN AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY:**

ASPCA- ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER  
(888)-426-4435

MASSACHUSETTS VETERINARY REFFERAL HOSPITAL  
20 CABOT ROAD  
WOBURN, MA 01801  
(781)-932-5802

MSPCA-ANGELL WEST  
293 SECOND AVE  
WALTHAM, MA 02451  
(781)-902-8400

ANGELL MEMORIAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
350 SOUTH HUNTINGTON AVE  
BOSTON, MA 02130

BLUEPEARL VETERINARY PARTNERS  
180 BEAR HILL ROAD  
WALTHAM, MA 02451  
(781)-684-8387

PETMEDIC URGENT CARE VET CLINIC  
347 MAIN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472  
(617)-744-9540