

Digoxin is a cardiac glycoside used to treat various types of heart disease. The effect of digoxin is to slow the heart rate and increase heart muscle contraction.

How this medicine should be used

The usual dose of digoxin in dogs is 0.0025-0.005mg/pound every 12 hours. The usual dose in cats is 0.0015-0.002mg/pound every 12 hours. Digoxin should be given on an empty stomach. CAUTION The usual dose of digoxin in dogs is 0.0025-0.005mg/pound every 12 hours. The usual dose in cats is 0.0015-0.002mg/pound every 12 hours. Digoxin should be given on an empty stomach. CAUTION: the elixir is available in two strengths; 0.05mg/ml and 0.15mg/ml.

Side effects

Side effects of digoxin in dogs and cats may include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, incoordination, depression and abnormal heart rhythms.

Special precautions

This medication has a very narrow therapeutic range. The dosage should not be adjusted without consulting the veterinarian since serious side effects or death could occur. The medication should be used with caution in animals with digitalis overdose, kidney disease, ventricular fibrillation, and other heart or lung disorders. Use caution when giving to animals with hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, or electrolyte abnormalities. Medications such as antacids, and metoclopramide may decrease the effects of digoxin. Medications such as chemotherapy drugs, diuretics including furosemide or HCTZ, or corticosteroids such as prednisone may increase the risk of digitalis toxicity. Laxatives, quinidine, verapamil, tetracycline and erythromycin may also increase the risk of digitalis toxicity. Always tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what other medications your pet is taking.

In the event of an overdose

Contact your veterinarian or veterinary emergency room. Symptoms of overdose may include vomiting, diarrhea, incoordination, weakness, and abnormal heart rhythms.

Storage:

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed. Store medication at room temperature, away from excess heat, light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Keep medication away from children and pets.