

## **Adequan (Polysulfated Glycosaminoglycan) was prescribed to your pet today.**

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

### **How is this medication useful?**

Polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG) is approved by the FDA for use in dogs for the control of signs associated with non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic arthritis. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

### **What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?**

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions. Other drugs can interact with PSGAG, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each. Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past. If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work. If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.

Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

### **How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?**

This medication takes several doses before you will see any effect. The medication's full effects may not be evident until your animal has taken it consistently for several weeks, but you will see a gradual improvement of your animal's clinical signs until the medication becomes fully effective. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days.

### **When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?**

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients:

- That are allergic to it.
- With a known or suspected bleeding disorder.

This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in patients:

- With kidney or liver impairment.

- That are pregnant or nursing. Safe use has not yet been proven for either the mother or babies.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

### **What are the side effects of this medication?**

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Vomiting or loss of appetite.
- Soft stools, diarrhea.
- Lethargy.
- Discomfort at the injection site.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Bleeding or unusual bruising.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

### **If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?**

Oral overdoses are unlikely to cause significant problems. If you witness or suspect an overdose and your animal is having symptoms, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Animal Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### **How should this medication be given?**

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly. Your veterinarian will teach you how to administer PSGAG injections. Be sure you understand these instructions completely.

Wash your hands and work in a clean area. Clean vial stopper by wiping with isopropyl alcohol.

Allow alcohol to dry completely.

Unwrap sterile syringe and needle. Carefully remove the cap from the needle. Pull the plunger back to draw air into the syringe to equal the dose into the syringe. Insert the syringe needle into the bottle and inject the air into the vial.

Turn the bottle and syringe upside down. Make sure the tip of the needle is in the liquid. Remove the prescribed dose into the syringe.

Before removing the needle from the bottle, check the syringe for air bubbles. If bubbles are present, hold the syringe with the needle pointing straight up and tap its side until the bubbles float to the top. Push the bubbles out with the plunger. You may need to remeasure the volume in the syringe for the

correct dose. Remove the needle from the bottle. Be careful to not stick yourself. Administer injection as directed by your veterinarian.

Do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe or recap the needle. Place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after use. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Keep containers out of reach of children and animals. Once the needle disposal container is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, dispose of containers according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online and in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.

The vial stopper may be punctured a maximum of 10 times.

If you have difficulty giving this medication to your animal, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

### **What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

### **How should I store this medication?**

Store this medication in the original prescription bottle at room temperature.

Avoid storing in direct sunlight, or prolonged exposure to high temperatures.

Keep away from children and other animals.

### **Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?**

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.