



Toxoplasma gondii & *Neospora caninum*

Mark Troxel, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital
Woburn, Massachusetts



*Toxoplasma
gondii*

Clindamycin

Dogs: 10–20 mg/kg PO, IM, IV q12h for 4 weeks¹⁻⁵

Cats: 10–12.5 mg/kg PO, IM, IV q12h for 4 weeks¹⁻⁵

As a broad-spectrum lincosamide antibiotic with parasitocidal activity against protozoal organisms, clindamycin is the current drug of choice for both *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Neospora caninum* infections.

Pyrimethamine + Sulfonamide

Pyrimethamine

Dogs, Cats: 1 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks³

Sulfonamide Options

Dogs, Cats: Sulfadiazine at 20–30 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks³

Dogs, Cats: Sulfadimethoxine at 20–30 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks³

Although it reportedly is not as effective as clindamycin, the combination of pyrimethamine and a sulfonamide (ie, sulfadimethoxine, sulfadiazine) is synergistic.

Trimethoprim–Sulfonamide

Dogs, Cats: All formulations at 15 mg/kg PO q12h for 4 weeks^{2,3}

Trimethoprim–sulfonamide (ie, sulfadiazine, sulfamethoxazole) is a potentiated sulfonamide

antibiotic that inhibits some protozoal organisms, including *T gondii* and *N caninum*.

Azithromycin

Cats: 10 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks^{6,7}

Azithromycin is a macrolide antibiotic that has been used to treat toxoplasmosis in a small number of cats. While clindamycin is the treatment of choice, azithromycin may be used if adverse effects associated with clindamycin treatment develop.

Monensin

Cats: 0.02% w/w concentration in dry food⁸

Monensin is an anticoccidial drug that may be effective in suppressing *T gondii* oocyst shedding if given within 1–2 days after infection.^{8,9}

Toltrazuril

Cats: 5–10 mg/kg PO q24h for 2 days³

The mechanism of action is unknown, but toltrazuril may inhibit protozoal enzyme systems. It may reduce oocyst shedding after infection or reshedding and may be beneficial in treating *T gondii*-positive cats owned by pregnant women, reducing the risk for fetal malformation.³

w/w = weight by weight

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SUGGESTED READING

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MARK TROXEL, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology), is staff neurologist/neurosurgeon at Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital in Woburn. His clinical interests include feline brain tumors, vestibular dysfunction, and neurosurgery. Dr. Troxel has published numerous peer-reviewed articles as well as several book chapters. He received his DVM from Iowa State University and completed a rotating internship, medicine specialty internship, and neurology residency at University of Pennsylvania.

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Neospora caninum infection

