**Toxoplasma gondii & Neospora caninum**

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**Clindamycin**

**Dogs:** 10–20 mg/kg PO, IM, IV q12h for 4 weeks\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^5\)

**Cats:** 10–12.5 mg/kg PO, IM, IV q12h for 4 weeks\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^5\)

As a broad-spectrum lincosamide antibiotic with parasiticidal 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 weeks\(^3\)

**Sulfonamide Options**

**Dogs, Cats:** Sulfadiazine at 20–30 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks\(^3\)

**Dogs, Cats:** Sulfadimethoxine at 20–30 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks\(^3\)

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\(^4\)\(^-\)\(^7\)

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 food\(^8\)

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 days\(^3\)

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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REFERENCES

SUGGESTED READING
A review of Neospora caninum and neosporosis.
Clinical aspects of 27 cases of canine neosporosis.

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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