

Doxycycline

by Dr. Carrie Journey DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

SUMMARY:

- 1) This is an antibiotic.
- 2) It is important to give this medication with food, and to encourage water after administration.
- 3) This medication may cause GI upset (vomiting, inappetence or diarrhea)
- 4) This medication tastes very bitter, and some animals strongly object to the taste.
- 5) Please finish the entire course of medication unless instructed to do otherwise by a veterinarian.

EXPLANATION:

This is an antibiotic that treats a variety of bacteria diseases, including the tick borne infections. It also can have anti-inflammatory affects.

SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication seems to be very well tolerated overall. The majority of animals will not have any side effects from this medication. The following side effects have been reported:

- 1) GI side effects including inappetence, vomiting and diarrhea. GI problems can be prevented in some animals by starting a pro-biotic supplement with the antibiotics. If your pet has GI upset while on this medication please contact your veterinarian.
- 2) Doxycycline has been associated with esophageal irritation and stricture, especially in cats. All animals should take this medication with food. Cats should be given 6mls of water following administration.
- 3) Rarely drug allergies have been reported.
- 4) In humans this medication is associated with photosensitivity reaction, and rarely hepatotoxicity and blood dyscrasia. These side effects are not reported in dogs and cats.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Doxycycline should not be given with antacid medications, as it may decrease the absorption of the medication. Oral iron supplements and phenobarbital may decrease the effectiveness of doxycycline.

