

Prescription Label

Patient Name:

Species:

Drug Name & Strength:

Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):

Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:

Refills:

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

Dextromethorphan/Guaifenesin

(*dex-troe-meth-or-fan/gwye-fen-e-sin*)

Description:

Cough suppressant/expectorant

Other Names for this Medication:

Mucinex DM, Robitussin DM, Cough Tablets

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: Tablets. **Human:** Tablets, oral syrup.

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.

Key Information

- Used to relieve coughing in dogs and cats
- The most common side effects are low energy level and upset stomach.
- May be given with or without food

How is this medication useful?

Dextromethorphan/guaifenesin is used to help relieve cough in dogs and cats. Dextromethorphan is a cough suppressant, and guaifenesin helps clear mucus from the lungs and airway.

The FDA (US Food & Drug Administration) has approved this medication for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this medication 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 medication will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, herbal therapies, flea/tick collars) 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 for using this medication.

- 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 should help your animal start to feel better within 1 to 2 hours. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours. The effects may last longer if your animal has decreased liver function.

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 medication in your animal.

This medication **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- That are allergic to it
- That are less than 3 months old
- That are less than 5 pounds

This medication should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- With a chronic cough
- With decreased liver function
- That are currently taking or have recently taken monoamine oxidase medications, such as selegiline
- That are wearing or have recently worn certain flea/tick collars, such as an amitraz collar

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common side effects include:

- Low energy level
- Decreased appetite, vomiting, or diarrhea

You do not 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:

- Extreme agitation or nervousness
- Rapid heartbeat or collapse
- Muscle rigidity, tremors, or difficulty walking

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

If you witness or suspect an overdose, 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 **Pet 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. Always check the label to be sure you are giving the medication correctly.

- Give this medication with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat.
- Measure liquids using an oral syringe, medicine cup, or dosing spoon. Do not use household measuring devices.
- This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication.

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

If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose when it is usually time to do so. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- In the original childproof prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container
- At room temperature
- Out of reach of children and 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.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the medication with coffee grounds or cat litter, place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- Use of this medication may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.