

Methocarbamol

Robaxin® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Methocarbamol is a muscle relaxant used to treat muscle spasms in animals.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Methocarbamol should not be used in animals that have shown an allergy to it or drugs like it (*e.g.*, Robitussin®).
- It is not known if methocarbamol can be used safely in pregnant animals.
- One of the ingredients in methocarbamol injection (PEG 300) can be very toxic to the kidneys. For this reason, methocarbamol injection should not be used in animals with kidney disease. The oral forms of methocarbamol do not have this ingredient in them and do not cause damage to the kidneys.
- Methocarbamol can cause extreme drowsiness and should be used very carefully in working animals. You should see how this drug affects your dog or horse before using the animal for work or in a performance.
- Methocarbamol can cause severe drowsiness when used with other drugs that also cause this side effect. You should not give your pet any other drugs without first asking your veterinarian.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The most common side effect of methocarbamol is drowsiness.
- Other side effects include drooling, tiredness, stumbling and incoordination, and vomiting.

How Should It Be Given?

- Methocarbamol is usually given orally, but may be injected by your veterinarian at the clinic.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive methocarbamol orally two to three times daily.
- **Horses:** Horses usually receive methocarbamol as an injection by the veterinarian but may also receive the medication orally. It is a Class 4 drug as classified by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Methocarbamol should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.