

Afoxolaner

(ah-fox-ah-lan-er)

Description:

Agent to Treat & Control Fleas & Ticks

Other Names for this Medication: NexGard®

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: 11.3 mg, 28.3 mg, 68 mg, & 136 mg flavored chew tabs. **Human:** None.

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 treat and control flea and tick infestations in dogs.
- May be prescribed for other external parasites.
- Give this medicine every 30 days.
- Ticks may still be found on your animal, but they will die quickly and before transmitting disease or laying eggs.
- Side effects are uncommon; report any concerns to your veterinarian.
- Contact your veterinarian immediately if your animal has any tremors, seizures, or difficulty walking.

How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved afoxolaner for use in dogs to prevent and treat flea or tick infestations. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing afoxolaner in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss with this drug 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 afoxolaner will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Other drugs can interact with afoxolaner, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) 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 did not work.
- If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using afoxolaner.
- 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?

Fleas will begin to die after 4 hours; ticks can take up to 12 hours or longer to die and fall off your animal. Your animal's clinical signs should begin to improve after that time.

The effects of this medication are long-lived, meaning they may last for multiple (ie, 4 to 6) weeks, although they may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or 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 afoxolaner in your animal.

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

- That are allergic to it.
- Puppies less than 8 weeks of age.
- Dogs that weigh less than 4 lb (1.8 kg).

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

- That have a seizure disorder or history of seizures (convulsions).
- That are used for breeding or that are pregnant or lactating.
- That are old, weak, or debilitated.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Vomiting or decreased appetite.
- Dry, flaky skin.
- Diarrhea.

If any of these signs are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Vomiting that does not stop.
- Complete loss of appetite.
- Tremors, seizures.
- Difficulty walking (eg, weakness, stumbling).

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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 open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For afoxolaner to work properly, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach.
- If your animal vomits within 2 hours after receiving a dose, give another full dose.
- 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. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.

- If you have difficulty getting your dog to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reduce the stress of medication time for both you and your animal.
- Patients are usually on afoxolaner for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. Before stopping afoxolaner, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

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

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before the next dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in the original prescription packaging at room temperature and protected from light.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling afoxolaner 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 drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), 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 drug 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.