

# EPIPHEN TABLETS FOR DOGS

***Phenobarbitone tablets for the treatment of canine epilepsy***  
***Keep out of reach of children. For animal treatment only.***

### Presentation:

Round white tablets scored in quarters on one face containing 100mg phenobarbitone.

### Indications:

Phenobarbitone should be used as an anticonvulsant in dogs suspected of having grandmal epilepsy and other situations where anticonvulsant therapy may be required.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR USE:**

**Must be dispensed in a child-proof container.**

### Dosage:

½ - 1 tablet per 10kg (5-10mg/kg) according to response. Administer once daily or in divided dose every 12 hours.

### Monitoring:

Maintaining therapeutic steady state concentrations increases efficacy and helps avoid toxicity. After initiation of treatment dosing should remain unchanged for 2 – 3 weeks (ie 7 x half-lives of phenobarbitone in the dog) in order to achieve steady state concentration. Trough serum phenobarbitone concentrations should be measured at 14 – 21 days and every 6 months during therapy or if adverse symptoms occur. Trough serum phenobarbitone concentrations should be between 20 – 40µg/ml (86 – 172 µmol/l) along with a good clinical response. Liver function should also be monitored at these times.

### PRECAUTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS:

Phenobarbitone should be used cautiously in pregnancy because pregnant animals are more sensitive or responsive to depressant effect than non-pregnant animals. Exposure during prenatal growth can induce permanent changes in sexual development. Phenobarbitone should be used cautiously in dogs with hepatic disease.

A reduced dose rate should be used in geriatric patients with severe respiratory insufficiency. Tolerance to phenobarbitone may develop after prolonged use therefore dosage may need to be increased.

Phenobarbitone may alter the effects of many drugs as it stimulates liver microsomal enzyme production.

Phenobarbitone is generally well tolerated but side effects may occur which are generally related to excessive phenobarbitone concentrations. The most common side effects seen are sedation and ataxia. This may occur on the initiation of therapy but gradually disappears over a few weeks. Less common side effects include polyphagia and polydipsia and are long lasting.

Phenobarbitone causes an increase in ALT and ALP which is generally moderate, reversible and not associated with morphological evidence of hepatic injury. However, in some dogs, prolonged therapy can result in signs (icterus, ascites, coagulopathy) associated with hepatic disease. Clinical improvement is seen with the cessation of phenobarbitone therapy or dose reduction resulting in decreased serum phenobarbitone concentrations.

### Storage:

Store below 30°C (Room temperature)

## **EPIPHEN TABLETS FOR DOGS (cont)**

### **Disposal:**

Dispose of empty container by wrapping in paper and putting in garbage.

Manufactured in Australia for Hi Perform Veterinary Products

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No A7828

#### **RESTRICTED VETERINARY MEDICINE**

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For Animal Treatment Only



*Ethical Agents Veterinary Marketing Ltd, 54 Hobill Ave, Wiri, South Auckland, New Zealand.  
P O Box 97110 S.A.M.C., Manukau, New Zealand.*

*Telephone 64-9-262 1388, Fax 64-9-262 1411, Freephone 0800 800 624.*

*E-mail [eage@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eage@xtra.co.nz), Website [www.ethicalagents.co.nz](http://www.ethicalagents.co.nz).*

