

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]

Artificial Tears/Ocular Lubricant

Description:

Tear Replacement and Ocular Lubricating Agent

Other Names for this Medication:

Gentel®

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: Drops in 3-mL & 10-mL bottles. **Human:** There are many types of artificial tear products available, over the counter, in a variety of formulations and sizes.

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

- Drops or ointments are used to temporarily increase moisture in the eyes.
- Wait 5 minutes after applying this medication before applying any other medications to the eye.
- Most human artificial tear and ocular lubricant products are available over the counter and may contain a variety of active ingredients. Be sure to use only the product recommended by your veterinarian.
- This medicine must be applied frequently to your animal's eyes. Be sure to apply this medicine as often as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Use proper administration technique to avoid contamination of the medication. Keep cap tightly closed when not in use.
- Store at room temperature, away from moisture and sunlight; do not freeze. Do not use if color changes, or it becomes cloudy.

How is this medication useful?

Artificial tears and ocular lubricants are used to temporarily increase the moisture in the eyes. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. However, the FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use human products in animals in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why 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 this drug 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 this medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including other eye medications, 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 didn't work.
- If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- 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 feel better within 1 to 2 hours. Your animal's clinical signs should improve after that time. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours.

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 drug in your animal.

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

- That are allergic to it or drugs like it

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:

- Mild burning, stinging, irritation, or redness of the eyes.

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

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

- Difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat (seen as noisy breathing) may indicate a severe allergic reaction to this drug.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs.

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

When used as an eye medication, overdoses are not likely, but side effects could occur if your animal eats the medication. 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** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

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

- Administer this drug to your animal's eye in the exact amount that your veterinarian has prescribed.
- Wash your hands before administering this medication.
- Do not touch the dropper tip or allow it to touch your animal's eye or any other surface to prevent contamination.
- If any residue is left on your animal's face after giving the eye drops, gently wipe it off with a damp cloth or tissue.
- If you are administering more than one eye medication to your animal, wait 5 minutes between each medication before giving the next one. Use eye drops before eye ointments to allow the drops to absorb into the eye.
- If you are using this medication as an eye solution for your horse, your veterinarian may have implanted a special eye catheter (subpalpebral lavage or SPL catheter). Use this catheter exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed and only use air to flush the medications to the eye after injecting into the catheter.

- If you are having difficulty applying the medication or your animal does not accept the treatment, ask your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with administration and reducing the stress of medication time.
- 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. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. If you want to stop giving this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue giving it.

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

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule.

How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in the original prescription bottle 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 this medication unless you are allergic to it or other drugs like 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?

- When using this product on your animal, be sure to be in communication with your veterinarian to make sure this treatment is the best choice for your animal's condition.
- 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.

Special Instructions
