



Your dog deserves
the best

Why Vetmedin[®] is an
essential part of your dog's
heart failure treatment

vet  **medin**[®]
DUAL ACTING INODILATION
Vital in CHF



Heart failure need not stop your dog enjoying life

Your dog has been diagnosed with heart failure. While this is a serious condition for dogs, it can be managed effectively and need not stop you and your dog leading a full life. Your vet has prescribed Vetmedin® for your dog, a choice that will help ensure the longest life possible¹ with a vastly improved quality of life.

This booklet contains some general information about caring for a dog with a heart condition. It is not a substitute for the personal care your dog receives from your vet, so always seek professional advice.

As you know, heart failure affects the heart's ability to work as a pump and circulate blood around the body. Vetmedin® helps this system in two ways:

1. Vetmedin® strengthens the heart's contractions, helping the heart to pump more efficiently and improving the intake and release of blood
2. Vetmedin® dilates the arteries and veins that take blood to and from the heart, thereby easing pressure on the heart

It is important to understand that there is no cure for heart failure, but taking Vetmedin® every day helps keep the condition under control.



Vetmedin® has an important place in heart failure treatment

The medical treatment of heart failure may consist of one or all of the following in any combination:

Diuretics help relieve the build-up of fluid caused by the inefficient pumping of the heart.

Vetmedin® is a medication that opens up constricted blood vessels taking blood to and from the heart, reducing the work your dog's weakened heart has to do. Vetmedin® differs from other commonly used heart medications by also helping the heart to pump more efficiently.

ACE inhibitors are medications that also open up constricted blood vessels, reducing the work your dog's weakened heart has to do.

Other medications are available that improve the strength, the rate or the rhythm of your dog's heart beat.

To determine which treatment combination is most effective in heart failure, the QUEST (Quality of Life and Extension of Survival Time) study was conducted¹. QUEST is the largest clinical trial ever carried out in canine cardiology history and compared the effects of Vetmedin® and an ACE inhibitor in dogs with heart failure.

The QUEST study found that dogs receiving only Vetmedin® and a diuretic had a significantly longer – 91% longer – survival, compared to those receiving only an ACE inhibitor and a diuretic¹.

Treatment needs to be individualised to each dog

The treatment regime your vet recommends will vary according to your dog's needs and the type and stage of heart disease. Your vet may also need to make adjustments to the treatment regime because heart disease can progress over time.



Expect your dog to feel better on Vetmedin®

Vetmedin® helps your dog to feel better and more energetic. Keep an eye on your dog as they go about their daily activities, taking note of any changes in their behaviour, appetite and level of movement.

You should see improvements in some of the common signs and symptoms of heart failure:

- less coughing
- increased energy
- improved appetite
- less likely to have laboured breathing or fainting

It is also important to continue to take your dog to the vet for regular checkups.

Chloe is 9 years old

"She's a different dog - keeping up with her much younger mate. I don't doubt that without the medicine, we would no longer have our gorgeous girl (Chloe) with us."

Leigh Creighton, Chloe's owner, Wantirna

Vetmedin® dosage instructions

Vetmedin® is available as capsules and chewable tablets. The dosage strength is based on your dog's weight. The Vetmedin® dose needs to be given one hour before food, in the morning and evening. This is because food can interfere with bioavailability of Vetmedin® – the amount of Vetmedin® that can go to work to relieve heart failure.

You can look forward to more time, and more fun, with your dog

Vetmedin® is one part, though a very important part, of treating your dog's heart condition. Besides Vetmedin®, your vet may prescribe other treatments and may recommend some dietary change. Your vet may also have some useful guidelines on exercise.

Regular veterinary checkups are an important part of the overall management of heart failure and an opportunity for you to discuss your dog's health with your vet.



You can help monitor your dog's progress. See the inside back cover for information on how you can help.

Vetmedin® offers a new lease on life

Whatever the age or breed of your dog, you can expect a positive improvement with Vetmedin®. The following comments on dogs' responses to Vetmedin® have been provided by Australian and New Zealand vets.

Bart, a 7-year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

*"A great response.
Owner really thrilled."*

Isis, a 12-year old Kelpie

*"Definitely made a noticeable
difference to her quality of life."*

Shelley, an 8-year old Maltese Terrier

*"Much more energetic and
better appetite."*

Jessie, a 13-year old Poodle

"100% improvement."

Troy, a 12-year old Persian Greyhound

*"Has gone from plodding
to trotting."*

Frequently asked questions

How long will my dog require treatment?

For as long as your dog is responding well to treatment with Vetmedin®, it should be maintained.

Will I need to revisit my vet?

As with any long-term medication, you will need to visit your vet regularly. At first these visits may be frequent but, once your dog's heart condition has stabilised, the intervals between visits should increase. However, if your dog's condition deteriorates at any time, you may need to visit more regularly.

Can my dog live longer with treatment?

Yes, almost certainly. The QUEST study showed that dogs treated with Vetmedin® and a diuretic lived a great deal longer¹. How long your dog will live depends on the type of heart condition your dog has, so discuss this with your vet.



For further information,
you can also visit
healthyheartfordogs.com.au
or
healthyheartfordogs.co.nz
or
contact Boehringer Ingelheim
Australia: 1800 226 315
New Zealand: 0800 802 461

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Reference: 1. Häggström J, *et al.* Effect of pimobendan or benazepril hydrochloride on survival times in dogs with congestive heart failure caused by naturally occurring myxomatous mitral valve disease. The QUEST study. *J Vet Intern Med* 2008;22(5):1-12.

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