Diclofenac, Ophthalmic
(dy-klo-fen-ak)
Category: Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Agent
Other Names for this Medication: Voltaren®, Surpass®
Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: A topical cream for horses is available but should not be used in the eye. Human: 0.1% ophthalmic solution in 2.5 ml and 5 ml dropper bottles.

While this information sheet does not contain all the information available for this medication, it will help answer some commonly asked questions about it and help you to use it safely and effectively for your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information
- Usually used 3-4 times daily to decrease inflammation.
- May increase risk of bleeding.

How is this medication useful to animals?
The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans and animals. Diclofenac is useful for treating inflammation of the eye (e.g. after cataract surgery). It works by inhibiting substances called prostaglandins that cause inflammation. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice for your animal.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given to my animal?
Many things can possibly affect the way this drug will work in your animal and its safety and effectiveness. It is very important to discuss the following things with your veterinarian so that together you can make the best decisions for treating your animal:
- There are other drugs that can interact with this drug so tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins or supplements) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of 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 what the treatment was and how well it worked.
- 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) your animal developed in the past.
- Ask your veterinarian how long you should give the medication and if you should continue to give it even after your animal seems back to normal.

- Ask your veterinarian what this drug is expected to do and how long it will take to know if it's working. Will a recheck appointment be necessary?

When should this drug 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 animals:
- That are allergic to it or drugs like it.

This drug should be used with caution in animals:
- That have bleeding tendencies or are on other medications that thin the blood (e.g. aspirin, heparin, clopidogrel).
- That are prone to stomach ulcers.
- That have diabetes.
- That have dry eye syndrome.
- That have asthma because the preservatives (sulfites) may trigger an asthma attack.
- That have eye injuries as this class of drugs may delay healing.

If your animal has any of these, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What are the side effects of the drug?
Side effects that usually are not serious include:
- Mild burning, stinging, irritation or redness.
- Humans report headaches and the feeling that something is in the eye while taking this drug.

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 or the throat indicates a severe allergic reaction to this drug.
- Skin rash.
- Bleeding in the eye.
- Loss of appetite or vomiting.
- Sensitivity to bright light.

If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian right away.

If my animal gets too much of this drug (an overdose) what should I do?
Large overdoses of this drug can be life-threatening. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. 24 hours/day animal poison control centers include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435); Pet Poison HELPLINE (800-213-6680); Angell Poison Control Hotline (877-2ANGELL). A consultation fee may be charged to your credit card for these services.

How should this drug be given?
For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always
There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it or other drugs like it (e.g. bromfenac), but it is always a good idea to 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 not a "take-back" program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or kitty 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 left over 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 the rules for your animal's sport before entering it in a competition while you are giving it this medication.
- If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

What should I do if I miss giving my animal a dose of this medication?
If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed, give it at the next scheduled time then go back to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?
- Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container at room temperature and protected from light.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (compounded) a special formulation for you, follow the storage recommendations and expiration dates for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family or other pets?
There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it or other drugs like it (e.g. bromfenac), but it is always