

Drugs Used in Ferrets

Please note: While the below drugs are often used in treating ferrets for various ailments, the majority of use is off-label (not approved for ferrets and/or approved indications).

Common Brand Name	Other Brand Name(s)	Active Ingredient	Treatment	Dosage
Aceproject®	PromAce®	<i>Acepromazine Maleate</i>	- Tranquilizer	- As needed IM or SC
Actigall®		<i>Ursodiol</i>	- Adjunctive therapy for liver disease	- Once to twice daily PO
Albon®		<i>Sulfadimethoxine</i>	- Respiratory, genitourinary, enteric and soft tissue infections - Coccidiosis	- Daily PO, IM or SC
Amforol®		<i>Kenamycin Sulfate</i>	- Diarrhea treatment	- 2~3 times a day PO
Amoxi-Drop®	Amoxi-Tabs®	<i>Amoxicillin</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections - Many strains of gram-negative aerobes - Helicobacter, using triple therapy of Metronidazole (Flagyl®), Amoxi and Pepto Bismol	- 2~3 times a day PO for 2~3 weeks - Once reconstituted must be refrigerated and used within 14 days
Amphicol®	Duricol®, Viceton®	<i>Chloramphenicol</i>	- Synthetic broad spectrum antibiotic for proliferative colitis and/or susceptible anaerobic bacterial infections	- Proliferative Colitis: q8h PO for 2 weeks or q12h PO for days - Infections: Twice a day PO, SC or IM
Atroject®	Atropine SA®	<i>Atropine Sulfate</i>	- Used as a premed	- As needed
Baytril®		<i>Enrofloxacin</i>	- Fluroquinolone effect against variety of bacterial pathogens	- 2 times a day PO, IM or SC
Benadryl®		<i>Diphenhydramine HCL</i>	- Antihistamine for allergic reactions - Reduce allergic vaccine reactions when administered prior to	- IM or IV 10-20 minutes prior to vaccine - PO using children's variety
Biaxin®		<i>Clarithromycin</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections - Anti-ulcer	- Given daily PO for 2 weeks
Carafate®		<i>Sucralfate</i>	- Treatment and protection of oral, esophageal, gastric and duodenal ulcers - Forms paste like layer which binds around ulcer site(s), forming barrier protecting ulcer from further damage	- q4-6h PO - Give 10-20 minutes prior to feeding
Cardizem®		<i>Diltiazem HCL</i>	- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	- Twice daily PO; may result in heart block
Cardoxin®		<i>Digoxin</i>	- Adjunctive therapy for heart failure	- Dilated cardiomyopathy: Once to twice daily PO - Maintenance therapy: once to twice daily PO with elixir with blood level monitoring
Casodex®		<i>Bicalutamide</i>	- Adrenal Disease	- Once a day PO until clinical signs resolve - For lifetime maintenance alternate one week drug, one week none

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Cefa-Drops®	Cefa-Tabs®, Duricef®	<i>Cefadroxil</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections of skin and soft-tissue	- 2 times a day PO - Once reconstituted must be refrigerated and used within 14 days
Cipro®		<i>Ciprofloxacin</i>	- Gram +/- bacterial infections	- 2 times a day PO
Clavamox Tablets®	Clavamox Drops®	<i>Amoxicillin/Clavulanate Potassium</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections	- 2~3 times a day PO
Cystorelin®		<i>Gonadorelin</i>	- To bring an intact jill out of heat	- Given IM, and repeat in one week if necessary - Most effective 14 days after estrus onset
Depo-Medrol®		<i>Methylprednisolone</i>	- Anti-inflammatory - Insulinoma - Adrenal Insufficiency	- Given IM or SC as needed
Dexamethasone®	Azium®	<i>Dexamethasone</i>	- Insulinoma - Quick acting and stronger then prednisone	- Daily or as needed IM or IV
Enacard®		<i>Enalapril Maleate</i>	- Adjunctive therapy for heart failure - Dilative cardiomyopathy	- Heart failure: Q48h PO, can be increased to daily if tolerated - Cardiomyopathy: once to every other day PO
Epinephrine®		<i>Epinephrine</i>	- Anaphylactic reactions and cardiac resuscitation - Relaxes smooth muscle in bronchi and iris, reversing effects of histamine, raises BG	- Rapid IM or SC for direct stimulation to heart and increase systolic BP - Monitor: cardiac rhythm, respiration and BP
Epogen®	Procrit®	<i>Epoetin Alfa</i>	- Anemia associated with chronic renal failure	- 3 times a week IM, which can be decreased if RBC improves
Flagyl®		<i>Metronidazole</i>	- Helicobacter - IBD - Susceptible infections	- Helicobacter and IBD: Three times a day PO for 3~4 weeks - Susceptible infections: 1~2 times a day PO - Very bitter tasting, mask taste
Florinef®		<i>Fludrocortisone Acetate</i>	- Adrenal insufficiency after bilateral surgery - Addison's disease - Acts on kidneys to conserve sodium and excrete potassium	- Once a day PO - Monitoring: electrolytes, BUN and creatinine every 1~2 weeks, then 3~4 long-term
Gentocin®		<i>Gentamicin Sulfate</i>	- Ear mites	- 2~3 drops per ear q12h
Heartgard®	Ivomec®	<i>Ivermectin</i>	- Heartworm "prevention"	- Monthly PO
Heparin		<i>Heparin Sodium</i>	- Anti-coagulant	- Given SC or IV

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Inderal®	Inderal®, Propranolol®	<i>Propranolol HCL</i>	- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	- Once to twice a day PO or SC
Kao-Pec®	Kao-pect®, Kaopectolin®	<i>Kaolin-Pectin</i>	- Diarrhea - GI toxins (efficacy questionable, large amounts often needed)	- 3 ~ 4 times a day PO
Keflex®	Biocef®	<i>Cephalexin</i>	- Semi-synthetic cephalosporin antibiotic for susceptible bacterial infections	- 2~3 times a day PO
Lasix®		<i>Furosemide</i>	- Diuretic for congestive cardiomyopathy and/or pulmonary edema	- IM or IV initially - Two to three times a day PO, IM or SC for long-term maintenance
Lupron®	Lurpon® Depot	<i>Luprolide</i>	- Adrenal disease - Inhibits release of Luteinizing Hormone (LH) and Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) from pituitary gland - Reduces estrogen and androgen levels - No effect on the tumor itself unless possibly caught at the very early stages of disease	- Varying dosages from 1 month to 6 month depot
Lutalyse®	Amtech Prostate®, In-Synch®	<i>Dinoprost</i>	- Pyometra	- As needed
Lysodren®		<i>Mitotane</i>	- Second line treatment (after Lupron) for adrenal disease where surgery not performed or tumor not fully removed	- 50mg once a day PO for a week, then 2~3 times per week PO - Have compounded into 50mg capsules (available only in 500mg) and mask taste Monitoring: BUN, CBC/chemistry, liver enzymes, BG, electrolytes
Melatonin®		<i>Melatonin</i>	- Alopecia - Pineal gland hormone	- Available in health food stores In tablet or oral formulas - Long-term use may decrease Luteinizing Hormone (LH)
Roxanol®	Morphine Sulfate®, Infumorph	<i>Morphine</i>	- Acute pain	- As needed
Nemacide®		<i>Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC)</i>	- Heartworm prevention	- Once a day PO
Novolin®		<i>Insulin</i>	- Diabetes	- 2 times a day IM or SC to start, then adjust dosage - Monitor: Glucose

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Otomax®		<i>Gentamicin, Steroid, and Clotrimazole</i>	- Acute/chronic ear infections	- 2~3 drops per ear q12h
Otomite Plus®	Mita-Clear®	<i>Pyrethrins</i>	- Ear Mites	- Clean ear, apply a few drops. - Repeat in 7 days.
Oxytocin®		<i>Oxytocin</i>	- Enhance uterine contractions in jills	- Given IM, IV or SC as needed
P.G. 600®		<i>Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG)</i>	- To bring an intact jill out of heat	- Given IM, and repeat in one week if necessary - Most effective 14 days after estrus onset
Panalog®	Animax®	<i>Nystatin-Neomycin Sulfate-Thiostrepton-Triamcinolone Acetonide Ointment</i>	- Ear inflammation - Wound Care - Prolapsed rectum	- 2~3 drops per ear q12h for 10 days - As needed
Panmycin Aquadrops®		<i>Tetracycline HCL</i>	- Chlamydia	- 2~3 times a day PO
Pepcid®	Pepcid AC®	<i>Famotidine</i>	- Reduce GI acid production - Stress induced ulcers	- One to Two times a day PO
Pepto-Bismol®		<i>Bismuth Subsalicylate</i>	- Diarrhea treatment - Helicobacter, using triple therapy of Metronidazole (Flagyl®), Amoxi and Pepto Bismol	- Diarrhea: 2~3 times a day PO - Helicobacter: 3 times a day PO for 3-4 weeks
Percortin®		<i>Desoxycorticosterone Pivalate</i>	- Adrenal insufficiency after bilateral surgery - Addison's disease - Acts on kidneys to conserve sodium and excrete potassium	- Every 25 days IM or SC - Prednisone usually giving daily - Monitoring: electrolytes, BUN and creatinine every 1~2 weeks, then 3~4 long-term
Polyflex®		<i>Ampicillin</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections	- 2 times a day IM, IV or SC
Prednisone®	Prednisolone®, Pediapred®	<i>Prednisone, Presnisolone</i>	- Anti-inflammatory - Insulinoma - IBD	- Dosages and frequency vary, PO or IM
Proglycem®		<i>Diazoxide</i>	- Hypoglycemia control for insulinoma - Usually used in combination with prednisone when pred alone isn't effective	- 2 times a day PO with prednisone - Monitor: BG, CBC/Chemistry every 3~4 months
Program		Lufenuron	- Ringworm	- Cat kitten dosage (up to 10lbs) applied topically
Proscar®	Propecia®	<i>Finasteride</i>	- Benign prostatic hyperplasia - Alopecia - Return of sexual aggression	- Given daily PO
Rimadyl®		<i>Carprofen</i>	- Pain and inflammation of joints (arthritis)	- q12h PO

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Sandostatin®		<i>Octreotide Acetate</i>	- Adjunctive treatment insulinoma when other medicines cannot be tolerated	- 2~3 times a day SC - Monitoring: BG, clinical efficacy
Tagament®		<i>Cimetidine</i>	- Reduce GI acid production - Stress induced ulcers - Duodenal ulcers, gastritis, gastric reflux	- 2~3 times a day PO, IM, IV or SC
Tenormin®		<i>Atenolol</i>	- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	- Once a day PO, usually 25mg tab quartered
Theophylline®	Asmalix®, Elixomin®, Elixophyllin®, Lanophyllin®	<i>Aminophylline</i>	- Myocardial failure - Pulmonary Edema	- 2~3 times a day PO
Torbutrol®	Torbugesic®	<i>Butorphanol Tartrate</i>	- Analgesic/Pain control	- q4h IM or SC
Tresaderm®		<i>Thiabendazole- Dexamethasone- Neomycin</i>	- Ear mites - Ear inflammation	- 2~3 drops per ear q12h for 10 days, stop 10 days and repeat for days
Tribrissen®	Bactrim®	<i>Sulfadiazine/Trimethoprim</i>	- Susceptible bacterial infections	- 2 times a day PO
Tylan®		<i>Tylosin</i>	- Chronic ulcers	- One to two times a day PO
Valium®	Diazepam®	<i>Diazepam</i>	- Pain control - Sedative	- As needed
Winstrol®		<i>Stanozdlol</i>	- Anemia associated with chronic disease	- 2 times a day PO or SC

Legend

- PO** By mouth/orally
- IM** Intramuscular
- SC** Subcutaneous
- IV** Intravenous
- BG** Blood Glucose
- BP** Blood Pressure
- q#h** Every # Hours
- RBC** Red Blood cells