



The University of Georgia  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Oncology Service  
(706) 542-3221

### Client Information: Vinblastine (Velban)

Today your pet was treated with vinblastine (brand name Velban). This is a chemotherapeutic agent. Please follow the instructions below.

#### Special Instructions for Care

Vinblastine is excreted primarily in the stool. A small amount is excreted in the urine.

**For dogs:** We recommend that dogs urinate and defecate in a low-traffic area of the yard for 48 hours after treatment with vinblastine. If your dog defecates or urinates in the house during this time, wear gloves when disposing of stool and urine. To clean the area, wear gloves and wash with soap and water. Women who are pregnant or nursing, people actively trying to conceive, and children should not handle the dog's stool or urine for 48 hours after treatment.

**For cats:** Women who are pregnant or nursing, people actively trying to conceive, and children should not clean the litterbox for 48 hours after treatment with vinblastine. When cleaning the litterbox, wear gloves. You can use flushable litter and flush stool and urine clumps down the toilet or use scoopable litter and place stool and urine clumps in a plastic bag and throw in the garbage. Change all of the litter in the box 48 hours after treatment and wash with soap and water.

#### Potential Side Effects

**Most patients do not experience side effects with this drug, but potential side effects can occur. It is important that you are able to recognize side effects. These side effects will generally resolve with appropriate treatment.**

##### 1. Gastrointestinal Side Effects

These are usually seen 2-5 days after treatment. Please monitor your pet for vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, or loss of appetite.

For **loss of appetite**, try feeding boiled chicken and rice for dogs and fishy canned foods for cats. If your pet does not eat for 24 hours or is lethargic and inappetent, please call us.

For **vomiting**, if your pet vomits once or twice, withhold food and water for 12 hours and then reintroduce water. If your pet does not vomit after drinking water, you can offer food. If there are more than 2 episodes of vomiting, if vomiting resumes with feeding, or if your pet is lethargic and vomiting, please call us.

For **diarrhea**, if stools are soft, feed bland food (boiled chicken and rice) for dogs. If the diarrhea is bloody, watery, persists for more than 24 hours, or if your pet is lethargic and has diarrhea, please call us.

If your pet is **lethargic** and has gastrointestinal signs, please call us. This could mean dehydration or infection and we will most likely have you bring your pet to the hospital for examination and treatment.

## **2. Myelosuppression (low white blood cell count)**

This usually occurs about 1 week after treatment and generally does not cause a problem. If the white blood cell count falls too low, your pet is susceptible to infection. Usually these infections originate from normal bacteria in the gi tract. Infections will cause fever and make your pet feel sick. Please monitor your pet for lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite. If noted, please call us. You may take your dog's temperature rectally at home. A digital thermometer is easiest to use. Cats usually will not tolerate this. If your dog's temperature is 103 degrees or higher, please call us. If signs of an infection are noted, we will recommend that you bring your pet to the hospital for examination and treatment.

## **3. Extravasation Injury (skin damage)**

If vinblastine leaks out of the vein, it can cause injury to the skin. Please monitor the site of treatment for redness or irritation (your pet will lick site of treatment). If noted, please call us.

**Note: If your pet is showing any of the signs described above or if you have any concerns about your pet, please call us. With appropriate care, most toxicity will resolve within a few days.**