

Erythromycin

(Erythrocin, Erythroped*) POM-V, POM

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Erythromycin](#)
- **Formulations**

Oral: 250 mg, 500 mg tablets/capsules; 250 mg/5 ml suspension.

- **Action**

Time-dependent macrolide antibacterial that binds to the 50S ribosome (close to binding site for chloramphenicol), inhibiting peptide bond formation.

- **Use**

Not commonly used in dogs and cats.

- Has a similar antibacterial spectrum to penicillins. It is active against Gram-positive cocci (some *Staphylococcus* species are resistant), Gram-positive bacilli and some Gram-negative bacilli (*Pasteurella*). Some strains of *Actinomyces*, *Nocardia*, *Chlamydophila* and *Rickettsia* are also inhibited by erythromycin. Most of the Enterobacteriaceae (*Pseudomonas*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella*) are resistant.
- It may be considered to treat canine enteric *Campylobacter*, although isolation rates are similar between healthy dogs and those with diarrhoea so treatment is rarely indicated.
- Erythromycin acts as a GI prokinetic by stimulating motilin receptors.

Being a lipophilic weak base, it is concentrated in fluids that are more acidic than plasma, including milk, prostatic fluid and intracellular fluid. Resistance to erythromycin can be quite high, particularly in staphylococcal organisms. Different esters of erythromycin are available. It is likely that the kinetics will differ and possible that the toxicity will differ depending on the ester used. Activity is enhanced in an alkaline pH. As the base is acid labile, it should be administered on an empty stomach.

[More +](#)

- **DOSES**

Classified as category C (Caution) by the EMA. See Appendix for [Guidelines for responsible antibiotic use](#)

- **Dogs, Cats**
 - Antibiosis: 10 mg/kg p.o. q8h.
 - GI prokinetic: 0.5–1 mg/kg p.o. q8h.