



try to minimise side effects by prescribing the most suitable steroid at an appropriate dose.

**Common side effects** of steroids include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased hunger
- Low energy
- Panting

If steroids are used over a long period of time or at high doses, side effects often include:

- Weight gain
- Muscle weakness
- Fat redistribution (pot belly)
- Skin changes
- Behaviour changes

If you're worried about side effects, contact your vet for advice.

## Steroids and other medications

**Drug** interactions are possible if another drug is given at the same time as steroids, so always talk to your vet about any new drugs if your pet is already being prescribed steroids.

## When to contact your vet

Never use steroids without a prescription from your vet, they can be harmful if used incorrectly. Contact your vet if your pet has been prescribed steroids and is showing any of the side effects listed above. Never stop your pet's steroids unless your vet tells you to. If you run low or run out of steroid by accident it's very important to contact your vet ASAP.

**Am I eligible for PDSA veterinary treatment?**

Published: June 2020