



Mar Vista Animal Medical Center

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ALPHA ERYTHROPOIETIN **(Brand Names: Pogen, Procrit)**

STRENGTH: 1 ml injection vials containing 2,000, 3,000, 4,000, 10,000, 20,000, or 40,000 units. Small animals almost always received a 2,000 unit vial

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION: Subcutaneous (abbreviated "SQ" or "subQ") injection. Be sure you know how to administer injections and dispose of needles properly.

ACTION OF MEDICATION: Hormone that stimulates the bone marrow to make more red blood cells. Note that this is a human version of the hormone. Goal is typically to restore the feline hematocrit to approximately 25% and the canine hematocrit to approximately 30%.

MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED: Approximately 40% of dogs and 50% of cats will develop high blood pressure on this medication.

Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA) can occur when enough antibodies against this human protein are produced. The immune system will make antibodies against the patient's own hormones as well leading to a serious anemia. Approximately 70% of all patients will make antibodies and 30% of all patients will make enough antibodies to generate PRCA.

STORAGE: Keep away from light and store in the refrigerator.

IF YOU MISS A DOSE: Simply give the dose when it is remembered and time the next dose accordingly. This medication is typically given 1-3 times a week.

OTHER INFORMATION: In California, it is not legal to dispose of needles in the regular trash. For more information on needle disposal:

www.marvistavet.com/california-sharps-disposal-law.pml

Must be given with an iron supplement for best results.

**CONSIDER USING DARBEPOIETIN INSTEAD AS THERE IS A
VAST REDUCTION IN ANTIBODY DEVELOPMENT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.**

For a more detailed presentation, visit:

www.marvistavet.com/erythropoietin.pml