



# Adequan Canine®

polysulfated glycosaminoglycan

# dosing



Body weight (lbs)	Body weight (kgs)	mL per injection	Approximate # of vials needed for 8 injections*
20 lbs	9.1 kgs	0.4 mL	¾
30 lbs	13.6 kgs	0.6 mL	1
40 lbs	18.1 kgs	0.8 mL	1¼
50 lbs	22.7 kgs	1.0 mL	1¾
60 lbs	27.2 kgs	1.2 mL	2
70 lbs	31.8 kgs	1.4 mL	2¼
80 lbs	36.3 kgs	1.6 mL	2½
90 lbs	40.8 kgs	1.8 mL	3
100 lbs	45.4 kgs	2.0 mL	3¼
110 lbs	50.0 kgs	2.2 mL	3½
120 lbs	54.4 kgs	2.4 mL	3¾
130 lbs	59.0 kgs	2.6 mL	4¼
140 lbs	63.5 kgs	2.8 mL	4½
150 lbs	68.0 kgs	3.0 mL	4¾

**\*DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The recommended dose of Adequan® Canine (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan or PSGAG) is 2 mg/lb body weight (0.02 mL/lb or 1 mL per 50 lb) by intramuscular injection only, twice weekly for up to 4 weeks (maximum of 8 injections). Do not exceed the recommended dose or therapeutic regimen. Do not mix Adequan Canine with other drugs or solvents. Use within 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 10 times.

**Indications and Usage** Adequan® Canine is recommended for intramuscular injection for the control of signs associated with non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic arthritis of canine synovial joints.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** Adequan® Canine should not be used in dogs who are hypersensitive to PSGAG or who have a known or suspected bleeding disorder. It should be used with caution in dogs with renal or hepatic impairment. Adverse reactions in clinical studies (transient pain at injection site, transient diarrhea, and abnormal bleeding) were mild and self-limiting. In post approval experience, death has been reported in some cases; vomiting, anorexia, depression/lethargy and diarrhea have also been reported. The safe use of PSGAG in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. **Caution:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. For additional safety information, *please see Full Prescribing Information on the back or visit [adequancanine.com](http://adequancanine.com).*

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Discover if Adequan® Canine is the right choice for your patients.  
Visit [adequancanine.com](http://adequancanine.com) or contact your distributor.

For technical questions, call Medical Affairs toll free at 1-888-354-4857, 9 am-5 pm ET, Mon.-Fri.  
To report an adverse event, call toll free: 1-888-354-4857 or email: [pv@americanregent.com](mailto:pv@americanregent.com).



# Adequan Canine®

## polysulfated glycosaminoglycan

Solution 100 mg/mL in a 5 mL preserved  
Multiple dose vial for intramuscular use in dogs.



**Caution:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**Description:** The active ingredient in Adequan® Canine is polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG). Polysulfated glycosaminoglycan is a semi-synthetic glycosaminoglycan prepared by extracting glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) from bovine tracheal cartilage. GAGs are polysaccharides composed of repeating disaccharide units. The GAG present in PSGAG is principally chondroitin sulfate containing 3 to 4 sulfate esters per disaccharide unit. The molecular weight for PSGAG used in the manufacture of Adequan® is 3,000 to 15,000 daltons.

Each mL of Adequan® Canine contains 100 mg of PSGAG, 0.9% v/v benzyl alcohol as a preservative, and water for injection q.s. to 1 mL. Sodium hydroxide and/or hydrochloric acid added when necessary to adjust pH. The solution is clear, colorless to slightly yellow.

**Pharmacology:** The specific mechanism of action of Adequan® in canine joints is not known. PSGAG is characterized as a "disease modifying osteoarthritis drug". Experiments conducted *in vitro* have shown PSGAG to inhibit certain catabolic enzymes which have increased activity in inflamed joints, and to enhance the activity of some anabolic enzymes. For example, PSGAG has been shown to significantly inhibit serine proteinases. Serine proteinases have been demonstrated to play a role in the Interleukin-1 mediated degradation of cartilage proteoglycans and collagen. PSGAG is reported to be an inhibitor of Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) synthesis. PGE2 has been shown to increase the loss of proteoglycan from cartilage. PSGAG has been reported to inhibit some catabolic enzymes such as elastase, stromelysin, metalloproteinases, cathepsin B1, and hyaluronidases, which degrade collagen, proteoglycans, and hyaluronic acid in degenerative joint disease. Anabolic effects studied include ability to stimulate the synthesis of protein, collagen, proteoglycans, and hyaluronic acid in various cells and tissues *in vitro*. Cultured human and rabbit chondrocytes have shown increased synthesis of proteoglycan and hyaluronic acid in the presence of PSGAG. PSGAGs have shown a specific potentiating effect on hyaluronic acid synthesis by synovial membrane cells *in vitro*.

Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of PSGAG following intramuscular injection have been studied in several species, including rats, rabbits, humans, horses and dogs.

Studies in rabbits showed maximum blood concentrations of PSGAG following IM injection were reached between 20 to 40 minutes following injection, and that the drug was distributed to all tissues studied, including articular cartilage, synovial fluid, adrenals, thyroid, peritoneal fluid, lungs, eyes, spinal cord, kidneys, brain, liver, spleen, bone marrow, skin, and heart.

Following intramuscular injection of PSGAG in humans, the drug was found to be bound to serum proteins. PSGAG binds to both albumin and chi- and beta-globulins and the extent of the binding is suggested to be 30 to 40%. Therefore, the drug may be present in both bound and free form in the bloodstream. Because of its relatively low molecular weight, the synovial membrane is not a significant barrier to distribution of PSGAG from the bloodstream to the synovial fluid. Distribution from the synovial fluid to the cartilage takes place by diffusion. In the articular cartilage the drug is deposited into the cartilage matrix.

Serum and synovial fluid distribution curves of PSGAG have been studied in dogs and appear similar to those found in humans and rabbits.

In rabbits, metabolism of PSGAG is reported to take place in the liver, spleen, and bone marrow. Metabolism may also occur in the kidneys. PSGAG administered intramuscularly and not protein bound or bound to other tissues is excreted primarily via the kidneys, with a small proportion excreted in the feces.

**Toxicity:** In a subacute toxicity study, 32 adult beagle dogs (4 males and 4 females per treatment group) received either 0.9% saline solution or PSGAG at a dose of 5 mg, 15 mg, or 50 mg per kg of body weight (approximately 2.3, 6.8, or 22.7 mg/lb), via intramuscular injection twice weekly for 13 weeks. PSGAG doses represent approximately 1X, 3X, and 10X the recommended dosage of 2 mg/lb, and more than 3 times the recommended 4-week duration of treatment. Necropsies were performed 24 hours after the final treatment. During week 12, one dog in the 50 mg/kg dosage group developed a large hematoma at the injection site which necessitated euthanasia. No other mortalities occurred during the treatment period. Statistically significant changes in the 50 mg/kg group included increased prothrombin time, reduced platelet count, an increase in ALT and cholesterol, and increased liver and kidney weights. Increased cholesterol and kidney weights were also noted in the 15 mg/kg group. Microscopic lesions were noted in the liver (Kupffer cells containing eosinophilic foamy cytoplasm), kidneys (swollen, foamy cells in the proximal convoluted tubules), and lymph nodes (macrophages with eosinophilic foamy cytoplasm) in the 15 mg/kg and 50 mg/kg groups. Intramuscular inflammation, hemorrhage, and degeneration were seen in all 3 PSGAG treated groups; the incidence and severity appeared dose related.

**Efficacy:** Efficacy of Adequan® Canine was demonstrated in two studies. A laboratory study using radiolabeled PSGAG established distribution of PSGAG into canine serum and synovial fluid following a single intramuscular injection of 2 mg/lb. A clinical field trial was conducted in dogs diagnosed with radiographically-confirmed traumatic and/or degenerative joint disease of 1 or 2 joints. Joints evaluated included hips, stifles, shoulders, hocks and elbows. Fifty-one dogs were randomly assigned to receive either Adequan® Canine at 2 mg/lb of body weight or 0.9% saline.

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