Frequently asked questions about Panacur® AquaSol

Trusted, effective dewormer now available for convenient drinking-water administration

Q: What is Panacur® AquaSol for pigs?
A: Panacur AquaSol (200 mg/mL fenbendazole) is a water-administered dewormer for swine that is manufactured with state-of-the-art technology for enhanced effectiveness and convenient oral administration. It is designed for use in bulk tanks and dosing pumps.

Q: What are the approved indications and dose rates in the EU?
A: Panacur AquaSol is indicated for the treatment and control of gastrointestinal nematodes in pigs infected with the adult, intestinal and migrating larval stages of Ascaris suum (large roundworms), the adult stages of Oesophagostomum spp. (nodular worms) and Trichuris suis (whipworms).

Q: What’s unique about Panacur AquaSol?
A: Panacur AquaSol is produced with an innovative wet-milling process utilizing zirconium beads. This results in very fine fenbendazole particles that mix easily in water, stay suspended in drinking water for 24 hours and leave no sediment.

The new manufacturing process provides benefits for producers and enhances deworming with fenbendazole.

Once Panacur AquaSol is initially added to the stock suspension or bulk tank and stirred, no additional stirring is needed for that 24-hour treatment interval. In addition, the new formulation eliminates the problem of clogged pipes and filters that has sometimes discouraged swine producers from using water-administered wormers in the past.

The fine, relatively uniform particle size provided by this manufacturing process has been demonstrated to increase the average relative bioavailability of fenbendazole by 29%, versus in-feed formulations. Increased bioavailability improves the product’s activity against migrating A. suis larvae.*

Panacur AquaSol also has an ovicidal effect on nematode eggs, and unlike several other swine dewormers, it is effective against all stages of A. suum. This is important considering that just 3 days after infection, 90% of worm larvae are already in the liver and 10% are in the lungs. Wormers that only kill adult worms allow the larvae to complete their cycle within 3 weeks.*

With the trend toward increasing restrictions on in-feed medications, water administration becomes a convenient alternative. Treatments can also be strategically timed and do not have to be timed with delivery of medicated feeds.

Q: How can I be sure that all pigs will receive the necessary medication for effective deworming?
A: The new formulation helps ensure uniform intake because fenbendazole is stable in water and there is more-even particle-size distribution.

In addition, the smaller, more-uniform particle size and resulting higher bioavailability of fenbendazole enhance gut absorption and the ability to kill migrating larvae.
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Q: What’s the recommended dosage and duration of treatment?

A: There are two approved dosage regimens for Panacur AquaSol for pigs, depending on the targeted parasite(s).

For *A. suum* and *O. spp.*, the dosage is 2.5 mg fenbendazole per kg bodyweight per day for 2 consecutive days for a total dose of 5 mg. For *T. suis*, only 3 days of consecutive treatment at 2.5 mg per kg fenbendazole per day is needed for a total dose of 7.5 mg.

It is essential to use Panacur AquaSol at the recommended dosage and for the 2- or 3-day consecutive treatment, as appropriate, to achieve the excellent efficacy possible with this product.

Q: What’s the withdrawal time?

A: Panacur AquaSol has a withdrawal time of only 4 days for meat and offal — less than some other dewormers.

Q: Is Panacur AquaSol safe?

A: Fenbendazole, the active ingredient in Panacur AquaSol, has been used for decades in multiple animal species. It is known to be safe for animals and has no known adverse effects.
Humans handling Panacur AquaSol, however, should wear protective gloves and avoid contact with or ingestion of the product. See the package insert for more details.

Q: Can Panacur AquaSol be used in pigs at all stages of production?

A: Yes, it can be used in weaners, growers, gestating sows and boars.

Q: How often should I use Panacur AquaSol?

A: The flexibility afforded by water medication allows tailor-made programs to be developed for each farm.

For outdoor pigs, gilts and sows should be treated upon arrival while in quarantine and then 5 to 7 days before each farrowing. Treatment of sows at the end of gestation or a few days before entering the farrowing unit will clear adult worms and A. suum larvae, thereby preventing infection of their piglets.

Piglets should be treated three times: 8 to 10 days post-weaning, then approximately 6 weeks later when entering the fattening unit, and again 6 weeks later.

Boars should be treated three times a year.

Q: How long does it take to administer Panacur AquaSol?

A: Panacur AquaSol is a 20% suspension and must be prediluted into an equivalent volume of water in order to ensure accurate measurement of the drug and, therefore, more accurate dosing of pigs.

Since Panacur AquaSol requires no additional stirring once the proportioner stock or bulk tank suspension has been prepared, and since it does not clog filters, requiring them to be removed, each administration takes only minutes to perform.

Q: What evidence is there that Panacur AquaSol is effective?

A: In field trials conducted throughout Europe, a 2-day treatment with Panacur AquaSol yielded an almost 100% reduction in fecal egg counts for A. suum or O. spp. In addition, Panacur Aquasol demonstrated 100% reduction in worm counts compared to controls.*

In a separate research study, treatment of pigs with Panacur AquaSol for T. suis reduced adult and pre-adult whipworm burdens by 93.5% compared to controls. In addition, fecal egg counts, which were 505 eggs per gram (epg) before treatment, were reduced to nearly 0 epg after treatment; in untreated controls, the epg continued to rise during the study.*

Successful worm treatment, particularly the reduction or elimination of egg shedding, helps prevent continuous contamination of the farm. This helps keep pigs healthy, enables them to grow faster and reduces losses that producers incur when herds are infected with worms.

Q: Is Panacur AquaSol palatable?

A: It is highly palatable. In one of the studies designed to test the efficacy of Panacur AquaSol, a metered
system was used to monitor water consumption. No differences were detected between pigs treated with Panacur AquaSol and unmedicated pigs.

Q: Why should I worm?

A: Intestinal worms are common on pig farms throughout the world.

Infection with *A. suum* alone can cause significant physical damage to pigs and economic damage to producers, and humans can become infected by ingesting food contaminated with eggs from feces. The consequences of *A. suum* infections include lower feed conversion, higher time to market, liver damage characterized by white spots, delayed fertile estrus, reduced milk production and a higher incidence of gut infections.

Infections with *A. suum* have also been associated with an increase in Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex, and they can interfere with developing immunity after vaccination against diseases such as *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. All told, the economic toll of an *A. suum* infection has been estimated to be as high as €9 to €10 per pig.

Whipworm infections interfere with weight gain and feed efficiency, and if the infection is heavy, hemorrhagic diarrhea and emaciation may result.

Heavy infections of *O. spp.* likewise can impair growth and damage the intestines, leading to enteritis and colitis with diarrhea.

Q: What other measures besides a deworming program need to be taken to control worms?

A: Consider that for every parasite living inside one pig, there are an estimated 100 to 1,000 more living outside. *A. suum* eggs can survive outside the host for up to 9 years. This is why it is important to use a dewormer that has an ovicidal effect and why decreased shedding is so important.

In addition to treating animals regularly to preserve their health and prevent continuous recontamination of their surroundings, deworming programs should include environmental management. This includes cleaning pens thoroughly with hot, high-pressure water or steam, then allowing the room to dry. Manure should be composted so the temperature reaches 55°C (131°F). Birds, rodents and insects should be prevented from entering pig houses since they can be vectors for worms.

Q: What’s the shelf-life?

A: The shelf-life for Panacur AquaSol is 2 years unopened and 6 months after opening. The entire contents of one bottle does not have to be used if it’s not needed. The “in-use” stability of the product enables producers to administer multiple treatments over a 6-month period without waste. In addition, deworming with Panacur AquaSol can be easily integrated into the farm’s routine schedule and treatments can be strategically timed.

Care should be taken not to let the product freeze or be exposed to frost.

*Data on file, MSD Animal Health*