

# CONVENIA-A Success Story with a New Born Puppy

by Barb Thornberry/Valor Golden Retrievers

On May 16<sup>th</sup> at noonish, a Bitch I bred "Babe", owned by a friend of mine "Pat", started having puppies. She had 8 puppies over the course of the next 4 hours, uneventful. At 4:30p.m. we thought she was done. She appeared to have settled in. At 5:00 Babe started hard contractions again.

After palpating her, I felt what I thought another puppy, but maybe a retained placenta. As time ticked on Babe was into hard contractions 20 minutes without a puppy or any debris. We called Pats vet to see if I should use oxytocin. I had given her a digital exam, so I knew no puppy in vaginal canal. The Veterinarian said to go ahead with oxytocin. It should produce either a puppy or at least some debris. Nothing happened. Now it's 6:00. Babe is not contracting at all anymore.

Concerned, I wanted to know IF it was a puppy I felt, was it still alive? I pulled out the Doppler and got a heartbeat, although low. It was about 145 bpm. A good heartbeat should be over 200bpm. So I knew we were losing this puppy.

Pat called her Veterinarian back and said we were bringing Babe in, because we heard a heartbeat in distress. Now it was narrowing in on 7:00.

We got to the clinic and it was determined there WAS a puppy, he was still alive. We opted to section her with hopes to save the puppy and get Babe out of distress. We went home and let the Vets do the C-section. At around 8p.m. "Junior" came into the world.

We got the call to come get Babe and Junior. That Junior was unstable, touch and go. They worked on him quite some time, but he was full of fluids. We didn't get a good prognosis.

We brought them both back to Pat's. Pat kept Babe comfortable and I worked on Junior. We started oral Clavamox and put in warmed incubator with oxygen and humidity. That was really all we could do at this point. We gave fluids also. He wasn't ready to eat yet, so supported with Karo and fluids (Saline). Eventually, when warmed we helped him to get colostrum.

He made it through the night, but both Pat and myself felt we were losing him. Midafternoon on the 17<sup>th</sup>, I left for a while to go pack a back for an overnight stay. When I returned to Pats around 5:00, the first thing I heard was Junior. He was doing the "death cry".

Anyone that's bred more than a few litters, knows exactly what that horrible cry sounds like. There's no mistaking it. I went into the room and immediately sensed Junior was cold, and he was. Temp 92 degrees. Not good.

I scooped him up and headed for the dryer with towels to warm. Over the next hour, I slowly warmed Junior. The death cry faded. He got sub q Saline and Karo on the roof of mouth.

Pat and I talked and we decided that even though he was warm again, he was still blue in the paw pads and gums. He still struggled to breath, even though on Clavamox. Pat called her Veterinarian for advice. We decided to take to the Vets, and if there wasn't any hope, we'd put him down.

Throughout this ordeal with Junior, and even before the birth, I talked about Convenia with Pat. How someday our whelping kit wouldn't be without it. I had over the course of the past year, heard from various groups, many good things about this one time shot of antibiotic, that lasted 2 weeks.

I knew in my mind I was going to ask the Veterinarian if we could try it. I mean what is there to lose? We were losing Junior anyways, right?

Since Junior was only 2 days old, the Veterinarian was skeptical. He said "no studies on puppies this young". I just kept saying "What do we have to lose"? And I took complete responsibility for the outcome, good or bad.

The Veterinarian finally agreed. I got Junior the shot. Feeling in my mind there was "hope" again, we went home with Junior in tow.

Almost immediately, Junior improved. We still warmed him and put on Babe. He ate!! Pat and myself stayed up all night supporting him with karo, saline and putting him on Babe every 2 hours. He was kept in incubator except to feed. By the next morning, I couldn't hear any fluid sounds in his lungs. His paw pads were "pinking" up!

It was all good things from then on.....Junior got stronger and survived. All because of Convenia. So the point of this post, is to tell you about this miracle antibiotic. It's off label for dogs, and no studies have been done on neonates, BUT, I'm here to say if you have no hope left, you really do..... Try convenia. There's nothing to lose.

The thing is, you may have to sell it to your Veterinarian. Meaning be politely insistent. Do what you have to do, but don't leave without the shot. I'll provide information about this wonder drug at the end of this article.

Now another interesting thing is this.... While this was happening with Junior, the rest of the litter developed really red, inflamed anus's. I believe it was from Babe over licking them. Why she was doing it, we weren't sure. We tried a number of things, but changing to a bland diet of boiled chicken, rice and carrots coupled with Prep H and keeping Babe away except to feed worked. I was also putting a pin size drop of Tylan mixed with Karo on the roof of their mouths. By day 2 the anus's were good to go. Babe is back nursing and life is good.

BUT, the interesting thing is this.....Junior never developed a sore, inflamed anus. Obviously because of the long lasting Convenia shot (he wasn't given the TYLAN). But even more interesting is ...."does the Convenia have the calming effect on the intestines that TYLAN does? If so, boy oh boy, this wonder drug just got better. Time will tell on that, but I'm thinking from what I experienced, that it does.

Moral of story, if you have a pup in trouble, don't forget about this drug. ASK for it, SELL It, do whatever you have to, to get a Convenia injection. It worked miracles on my 2 day old puppy with a temp of 92, that was doing the "death cry"....

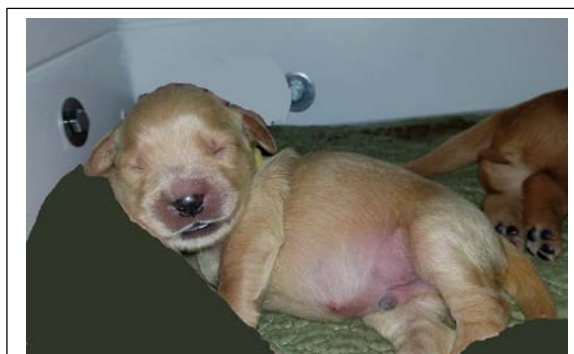
As always, I welcome any questions. And thank you Barb W. for allowing me to share this news.

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Junior is doing just fine now



# Cefovecin (Rx)



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Overview

Directions

Warnings

Other

## TRADE NAMES:

Convenia

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Cefovecin is an injectable cephalosporin antimicrobial used to treat many common bacterial infections in dogs and cats (eg. skin and soft tissue infections, urinary and respiratory tract infections, etc). Treatment with Cefovecin usually requires only a single injection.

## WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- 3rd generation cephalosporin; a semi-synthetic broad spectrum antibiotic
- Given by subcutaneous injection (under the skin and above the muscle)
- Supplied in a multi-use vial as dehydrated cake that is rehydrated with sterile water before use

## REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Single injection (while in hospital) makes it a very convenient option
- Useful broad spectrum antibiotic most often prescribed for common and uncomplicated infections
- Especially useful against skin, soft tissue, respiratory and genitourinary tract infections in dogs and cats

## WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

- Use with caution in pets with kidney failure
- Safe use in dogs and cats less than 4 months of age, and in pregnant, breeding or nursing animals has not been determined. Treated animals should not be used for breeding for 12 weeks after the last administration.
- Pets whom have had previous allergic reactions to penicillin, other cephalosporins or antibiotics

## Dosing Chart

# Convenia® (cefovecin sodium)

- Label dose for dogs and cats = 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg or 0.045 mL/lb) subcutaneously
- Reconstituted concentration = 80 mg/mL
- Reconstitute with 10 mL of sterile water for injection, USP
- Use within 56 days after reconstitution
- Always refrigerate in original carton to protect from light
- Minimum pet age for use is 4 months

As with other cephalosporins, CONVENIA will naturally turn amber over time after reconstitution. The color change has no impact on safety or efficacy, provided CONVENIA is kept under proper storage conditions.



Examples of color change after the vial has been broached and reconstituted.

### CONVENIA Dosing Chart at 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg or 0.045 mL/lb)

Weight of Animal	Volume of CONVENIA
5 lb	0.23 mL
10 lb	0.45 mL
15 lb	0.67 mL
20 lb	0.90 mL
40 lb	1.80 mL
60 lb	2.70 mL
80 lb	3.60 mL
100 lb	4.50 mL

## Cefovecin

Cefovecin is an antibiotic of the cephalosporin class, licensed for the treatment of skin infections in cats and dogs. It is marketed by Zoetis under the trade name Convenia.

Molar mass: 453.49 g/mol



## Finally, The Magic "Shot" Has Arrived

Some pets can be difficult and uncooperative for owners attempting to administer oral medications. On occasion, "difficult and uncooperative" is far too kind a description for the way some pets act when approached with oral medication, a problem especially prevalent with cats and small dogs. Owners of pets like this, when faced with the reality of having to administer oral antibiotics for a typical antibiotic course (10-14 days), often ask me, "isn't there just a shot you can give instead?"

Up until just last week, my answer to this question has always been that I could indeed give an antibiotic injection, but after 24 hours it will wear off, and oral antibiotics will have to begin to be administered, lessening the total course by only one day. However, all that changed when I attended a seminar presented by Pfizer, a major animal health pharmaceutical company, introducing their one time injectable antibiotic, Convenia (generically called cefovecin).

Convenia is an antibiotic that persists in canine and feline tissues for 17 days or longer according to data obtained from its extensive veterinary use in Europe, enabling bacterial fighting activity for up to 17 days or longer from just one injection. This is beneficial for the owner because they do not have to preoccupy themselves with the administration of oral medication. For owners with pets that are challenging to medicate, Convenia is especially attractive.

For veterinarians, we love Convenia because it takes out of the equation the single most common reason why antimicrobial treatment fails: owner non-compliance. Owners frequently fail to administer antibiotics in a timely fashion due to scheduling conflict, or busy lifestyles leading to forgetfulness. On other occasions, seeing significant improvement in the early stages of treatment, they decide to stop treatment to save the rest of the antibiotics for another time they suspect an infection and want to try to save on a vet visit. In fact, statistically, only less than 25% of pet owners administer medications as directed and to completion, a fact that both astounds and alarms me.

These actions lead to not only a relapse of infection, but often infections that are new and improved, because they have developed antibiotic resistance. With Convenia, veterinarians eliminate owner compliance issues, placing treatment entirely in our hands.

Of course, no drug is perfect and comes with its own set of drawbacks, and Convenia is no exception. As a cephalosporin class antibiotic, it is only going to be effective against gram positive bacteria with limited gram negative action, making it appropriate for only certain types of infections. Right now, it is only labelled for use against skin infections (most of which tend to be streptococcus or staphylococcus species bacteria), although, I suspect that it will likely be a good choice for upper respiratory infections and first or second time urinary tract infections.

The other drawback is the price of treatment, with the average injection costing the pet owner around \$2 per pound of body weight. While this may be quite affordable for owners of small to medium sized dogs or cats, the price of treatment can get very high for large or giant breeds.

Still, having been using the drug for a little over a week, I find my clinic already flying through its supplies of Convenia. When used at appropriate times, Convenia has proven itself an invaluable tool to ensure owner treatment compliance, as well as create convenience and ease of treatment for clients.

*P.S.: I have no affiliation with, nor do I receive any incentives from, Pfizer, As such, my critique of Convenia 100% objective, written*