

Forms of Melatonin for Ferrets

Melatonin comes in different forms for treating adrenal gland problems in ferrets.

By Jerry Murray, DVM

Melatonin comes in three basic forms: tablets, liquid suspension and injectable implants. However, the tablets and liquid version are not FDA approved. They are classified as nutritional supplements and are not monitored by any government agency. All three forms are inexpensive.

Tablets are available over-the-counter in most drug stores, health stores and supermarkets. They normally come in either a 1-milligram or a 3-milligram size. The suggested dose is 1 to 3 milligrams once a day. These will need to be used daily.

Liquid versions are also available over-the-counter in most drug stores, health stores and supermarkets. The concentration varies from a quarter of a milligram all the way up to 2 1/2 milligrams per milliliter. Read the label to see how many milligrams per milliliter are in it. The suggested dose is 1 to 3 milligrams once a day. These will need to be used daily.

Implants are now available for use in ferrets. They are called ferretonin and are injected under the skin over the shoulder blades. They are a constant-release product that will last for three to four months. This is the easiest way to give melatonin to your ferret and may work even better than daily oral melatonin.