

Enalapril

(e-nal-a-pril)

Category: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor

Other Names for this Medication: Enacard®, Vasotec®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 1 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, & 20 mg tablets; **Human:** 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, & 20 mg tablets.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Enalapril is used to treat heart failure, high blood pressure, and some forms of kidney disease in dogs and cats.
- ▶ It is usually well tolerated, but vomiting and diarrhea can occur. May be given with or without food. If your pet vomits, stops eating, or acts sick after receiving it on an empty stomach, give with food or small treat to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ If a rash or signs of infection occur (eg, fever) contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Very important to give as prescribed. Do not stop or reduce dosage without veterinarian's guidance.

How is this medication useful?

Enalapril is used to help the heart perform more efficiently by opening up blood vessels and decreasing fluid retention in the body.

This drug is also used to protect the kidneys from certain diseases that affect them. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. It is very important to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best decisions for treating your pet.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with this medication, so tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your pet, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have or had in the past.
- ▶ If your pet is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug. Enalapril has caused birth defects in humans and laboratory animals. Tell your veterinarian if your pet is pregnant or going to be bred while taking enalapril.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your pet.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That have had an allergic (hypersensitive) or severe reaction to it or other drugs like it (eg, ramipril, lisinopril, benazepril).
- ▶ With certain heart conditions (eg, aortic stenosis, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy).

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That are dehydrated. If your pet is dehydrated, the drug may cause toxicity. Be sure your pet has plenty of clean drinking water available.
- ▶ Severe liver or kidney damage. This drug must be converted to its active form by the liver. If your pet has severe liver disease, this drug may not be effective. Enalapril is eliminated from the body by the kidneys. If your pet has serious kidney disease, your veterinarian will probably lower the dose of enalapril.

If your pet has any of these conditions or signs, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common, but usually not serious, side effects include:

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, or a lack of appetite. If these occur, giving this drug with food may help.
- ▶ Tiredness: When beginning enalapril, your pet may show a lack of energy. This usually gets better after some time.

If any of these are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Weakness, collapse, fever, and/or rash can occur, but are rare.
- ▶ Cough: A dry persistent cough is a common side effect in humans but is rare in animals.
- ▶ Cats: Kidney damage (rare).

If you see any of these side effects, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal somehow gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of enalapril may be serious as it may cause dangerously low blood pressure with future damage to the kidneys. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661). A consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Enalapril may be given with or without food. If your pet vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Be sure your pet has plenty of clean drinking water available.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your pet to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time; often, this medication is a lifelong therapy. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication to your pet. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original child and light resistant prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your pet, follow the noted storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Your pet will likely need to have blood pressure and laboratory tests performed to ensure the medication is tolerated and effective.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your pet in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.