

Methionine

(me-*thye*-oh-*neen*)

Category: Urinary acidifier, nutritional

Other Names for this Medication: Racemethionine, d,l-methionine, Ammonil®, Methio-Form®, Methigel®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 200 & 500 mg tablets; 500 mg chewable tablets; 480 mg/6 g (tsp) oral gel; powder in a variety of concentrations. **Human:** 500 mg tablets; 200 mg & 500 mg capsules; 100 mg oral powder packets.

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 pet. If you have other questions or need more information, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Used to acidify the urine.
- ▶ May reduce formation of certain urinary stones.
- ▶ May cause upset stomach; giving medicine with food helps.

How is this medication useful?

Methionine has been used in dogs, cats, or goats to make the urine more acidic, and as a nutritional supplement for horses or pigs. It is also available for humans as a nutritional supplement. These products are considered a nutritional supplement by the FDA; therefore, it does not evaluate these products for safety or efficacy. For your animal's safety, use only products recommended by your veterinarian. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this type of supplement is an appropriate choice for your animal.

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

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with this medication, so be sure to 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 now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or did not work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using methionine.
- ▶ 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 animal.

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

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it.
- ▶ Animals with kidney, liver, or pancreatic problems.
- ▶ Kittens should not receive methionine.
- ▶ Animals with certain types of kidney or urinary bladder stones.

Methionine should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That have decreased liver function.

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Upset stomach

If this sign is severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

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

- ▶ Sudden onset of weakness.
- ▶ Red-brown urine (cats).
- ▶ Pale gums (cats).

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

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

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For methionine to work properly, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach. If your animal 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.
- ▶ Liquid forms of methionine must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reduce the stress of medication time for both you and your animal.
- ▶ Methionine can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. If you want to stop giving methionine, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue giving it.

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

If you miss a dose, wait and give the next dose at the scheduled time. Do not double-up doses or give an extra dose.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store methionine in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the 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 methionine 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 leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Use of methionine may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal 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.