

# Ramipril

(ram-ih-prill)

**Category:** Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor

**Other Names for this Medication:** Altace®, Vasotop®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 0.625 mg, 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, & 5 mg tablets (only available in the UK). **Human:** 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg, & 10 mg capsules.

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

- ▶ Ramipril is used to treat heart failure, high blood pressure, and some forms of kidney disease in dogs and cats.
- ▶ Usually tolerated well, but vomiting and diarrhea can occur. Give with food if vomiting or lack of appetite becomes a problem. If a rash or signs of infection occur (eg, fever) contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ It is important to give exactly as prescribed. Do not stop or reduce the amount to be given without first talking with your veterinarian.
- ▶ Your animal will likely need to have blood pressure and lab tests performed while on this medication.
- ▶ Always provide plenty of fresh, clean water to your animal while receiving this drug.

## How is this medication useful?

Ramipril is used to treat heart failure, certain types of kidney disease, and high blood pressure.

While there is an approved veterinary product in the UK, there are no veterinary FDA-approved products in the US. However, the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans. The FDA does allow veterinarians to prescribe and use human products containing this drug in animals in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

## What should I tell my veterinarian so that I can give this medication safely to my animal?

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

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with lisinopril, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal 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 didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal 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 patients:

- ▶ That have had an allergic or severe reaction to it or other drugs like it (eg, enalapril, lisinopril, benazepril).
- ▶ With certain heart conditions (eg, aortic stenosis [narrowed heart valve], obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy [abnormally thick heart muscle]).

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

- ▶ That are dehydrated.

If your animal matches any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the drug versus the benefits.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

### **Common but not serious side effects include:**

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, or a lack of appetite. If these occur, giving this medicine with food may help.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

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

- ▶ Weakness, signs of infection (fever), rash, low blood pressure, or too much potassium in the blood can occur, but are rare.
- ▶ A dry continued cough is a common side effect in humans but rare in animals.

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

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

Overdoses of ramipril may be serious as blood pressure can become too low. 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: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

- ▶ Ramipril should be given about the same time each day with food or on an empty stomach. If vomiting or lack of appetite occurs, giving this drug with food may help. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.

- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal 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. 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. 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 animal, 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 leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

#### **What other information is important for this medication?**

- ▶ Use of this drug 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.
- ▶ Be sure that plenty of fresh, clean drinking water is available. If your animal is dehydrated, the drug may cause toxicity.
- ▶ While on this medication, your veterinarian will want to perform laboratory testing and blood pressure checks on your animal. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

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