

Ranitidine

(rah-nit-a-deen)

Category: Stomach acid reducer (Histamine-2 blocker)

Other Names for this Medication: Zantac®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 150 mg & 300 mg oral capsules; 75 mg, 150 mg, & 300 mg oral tablets; 15 mg/mL oral syrup.

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

- ▶ Used to treat and prevent stomach ulcers and reflux disorders.
- ▶ Works best if given before the first meal of the day. 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.
- ▶ Ranitidine tablets are available over the counter (OTC), without a prescription; only give it to your animal if your veterinarian recommends.

How is this medication useful?

Ranitidine is a medication for stomach ulcers and reflux disorders that reduces the acid secreted by the stomach. Ranitidine also may be used to help empty the stomach or stimulate bowel activity.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. 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. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with ranitidine so tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, herbal therapies, and treats) you are giving your animal, including the amount and schedule of 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 didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant, may become pregnant or is nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug. Ranitidine enters a nursing mother's milk, so it is recommended that it not be used while the animal is nursing.
- ▶ 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 patients:

- ▶ That have had an allergic reaction to it or similar drugs (eg, cimetidine, famotidine) in the past.

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

- ▶ With kidney problems.
- ▶ That are nursing.

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

Oral ranitidine is generally tolerated well by both dogs and cats. If you notice any abnormal signs associated with use of this drug, problem contact your veterinarian.

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

Overdoses of ranitidine are rarely serious, but larger overdoses may cause problems. If you know or think your animal got too much of this medication, 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. Do not cut or break tablets unless instructed to by your veterinarian or pharmacist. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Ranitidine should be given about 30 minutes before a meal, generally the first meal of the day. If your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give it with the meal instead. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication 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 dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long the 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, wait and give the next dose when it is usually time to do so. Do not double-up doses or give an extra dose.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature, out of direct sunlight. Liquids should be stored exactly as recommended and discarded by the date shown on the prescription bottle.
- ▶ 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?

- ▶ Do not give ranitidine or any other over the counter medications to your animal without first checking with your veterinarian.
- ▶ Do not switch medication forms or types (capsule, tablet, liquid) without first talking with a veterinarian or pharmacist, as the dosage may not be the same.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Please 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.