

Sulfadimethoxine

(sul-fa-dye-meth-ox-een)

Description:

Sulfonamide Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Albon®

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: Oral tablets: 125 mg, 250 mg, & 500 mg; Oral suspension: 50 mg/mL; Oral boluses: 5 gm & 15 gm; Soluble powder: 94.6 gm/packet; Concentrated solution: 12.5%. **Human:** None.

Antimicrobial Classification:

Highly Important

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- Usually given once daily to treat or control coccidiosis. May not completely cure the infection.
- Monitor for dry eye syndrome in dogs.
- Give this medicine with or without food; give with food if stomach upset occurs after giving a dose.
- **People allergic to sulfa drugs should handle this drug with caution.**

How is this medication useful?

Sulfadimethoxine is used in dogs, cats, small mammals, and reptiles to treat coccidiosis and other bacterial infections. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs, cats, and some other species. 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 sulfadimethoxine, veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of 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.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours; however, you may not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your animal should begin feeling better within 1 to 2 days. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

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 are allergic to it.
- That have severe liver or kidney disease.
- That are severely dehydrated.

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

- Doberman pinschers appear to be very susceptible to a serious immune-related condition (poly-systemic immune complex disease) that can be caused by sulfa drugs; many veterinarians will avoid using sulfonamides in this breed of dog.
- Patients with liver, kidney, or thyroid disease.
- Animals with or that have a history of kidney or bladder stones, as they may be at higher risk for developing new stones when taking this drug.
- Animals that are old, sick, weak, or frail.

If your animal has any of these conditions, 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:

- Reduced appetite, vomiting, loose stools (diarrhea).

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:

- Dry eye syndrome (keratoconjunctivitis sicca; KCS). Before your dog takes this drug, your veterinarian will want to measure your dog's tear production. Signs of dry eye include redness or discharge from the eyes or increased blinking.
- Difficulty urinating or straining to urinate; blood in urine.
- Skin conditions: Sores, skin that appears to be burned, severe itching, loss of fur.
- Increased thirst and urination.
- Swelling of face.
- Lack of energy or appetite, tiredness, fever.
- Difficulty walking.
- Yellowing of the gums or whites of the eyes (jaundice).

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see any of these side effects.

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 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.

- May be given with or without food. 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.
- 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.
- Liquid forms of this medication should be shaken well before giving and must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- 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?

Unless it is within 12 hours of the next scheduled dose, give the medication when you remember it and give the next dose at the regular time. If it is within 12 hours of the next scheduled dose, give it, and skip the next dose and then begin giving it at the regular scheduled times.

How should I store this medication?

- Store tablets and oral suspension at room temperature. Store in the original prescription bottle, oral syringe, or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container; protect tablets from moisture.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (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 animals?

- **Humans with allergies to sulfa compounds should avoid handling this drug or wear disposable gloves when giving it.**
- Wash 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?

- Your veterinarian may need to do periodic examinations and blood tests on your animal while it is taking this medicine. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- 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.

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