



Amiodarone

OTHER NAMES: Cordarone®, Pacerone®

USE: Amiodarone is used to treat abnormal heart rhythms in animals.

ADMINISTRATION & DOSING

The FDA has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows 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.

Please check your pet's medication label for specific dosing instructions.

- The tablets can be given with food or on an empty stomach.
- Please tell your veterinarian of all other medications and supplements your pet may receive since there can be adverse interactions with amiodarone.
- This medication requires several doses before any benefits may be seen. A slightly higher "loading" dose may be administered at the start of therapy. Its effects are long-lived, meaning they may last multiple weeks (4-6 weeks) or longer if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.
- The duration of therapy is variable, but often it is used lifelong.
- This drug should not be administered in patients who have certain rhythm abnormalities. It should be administered cautiously in animals with electrolyte imbalances, thyroid problems, or liver disease.

SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects are more common with this medication. They can develop at any time with this medication.

Side effects that are typically not serious:

- Decreased appetite or vomiting.
- Contact your veterinarian if any signs are severe, worsen, or remain problematic.

Rare, but serious side effects:

- Liver toxicity (vomiting, bloody diarrhea, decreased appetite, yellowing of the eyes or skin, abdominal pain, bleeding, seizures, and behavior changes).
- Thyroid hormone dysfunction.
- Low blood pressure (fainting, collapse).
- Deposits in the eye or change in eye color.
- It is not reported in dogs, but rare side effects (pulmonary fibrosis and bone marrow suppression) are reported in humans.

If you see any of these signs, immediately contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ADMINISTERING TOO MUCH MEDICATION (OVERDOSE)

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

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A MISSED DOSE

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember. If it is close enough to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double up or give extra doses.

MEDICATION STORAGE & HANDLING

- Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container at room temperature and protected from light.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the product's storage recommendations and expiration date.
- Keep away from children and other animals.
- Pregnant women and people who are allergic to this drug should be very careful not to take it accidentally. Because this drug has a higher risk for causing birth defects, pregnant women should wear disposable gloves when giving doses or handling the drug and avoid inhaling any dust from split or crushed tablets. Skin or eyes exposed to powder or liquids containing the drug should be washed or rinsed thoroughly immediately. Contact your physician if you have concerns about exposure.
- Wash your hands after handling any medication.
- 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.