Benazepril
(ben-a-zap-ril)
Category: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor
Other Names for this Medication: Lotensin®
Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 2.5 mg, 5 mg, & 20 mg tablets (20 mg not available in the USA). Human: 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, & 40 mg tablets.

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 other drugs like it (eg, enalapril, lisinopril, captopril).

This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in patients:
- With low amounts of sodium in their blood (hyponatremia).
- With lupus (SLE).
- With severe heart failure. Close monitoring by your veterinarian is necessary.
- 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?
Common, but not serious side effects include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of appetite. If vomiting or lack of appetite occurs, giving this drug with food may help.
- Rash, lethargy, or fever could indicate an allergy to the medication.
- If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?
Overdoses of benazepril may be serious. Dangerously low blood pressure is possible. If you witness or suspect an overdose, immediately contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); 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 prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- May be given on an empty stomach or with food. 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.
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- If your animal experiences a rash, fever, or lethargy, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- 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 childproof, light-resistant prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature. Keep away from children and other animals.
- 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.

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.

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