Acetazolamide
(continued)

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Acetazolamide should be stored at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- This medication is being given to control your horse's paralysis episodes. Give it as instructed by your veterinarian and do not miss any doses especially during trailer or other times of immobility.
- You should provide your horse with a regular feeding and exercise and avoid water deprivation or fasting. Your horse is likely to have a relapse if confined for a long period (>2hrs) in a stall or a trailer. You should feed low potassium containing foods such as alfalfa mixed with grass or oat hay and grains, especially oats. You should avoid rapid changes in your horse's diet.
- You should remove any salt licks and mineral supplements from your horse's paddock and consult your veterinarian prior to administering any new feeds or mineral supplements.
- This medication may be difficult to obtain in the large quantities (16-20 tablets daily) needed by adult horses. Contact your pharmacist well ahead of time (at least one week) in order to obtain refills without missing doses.
Acetazolamide

Diamox® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Acetazolamide is primarily used to treat HYPP (hyperkalemic periodic paralysis) in Quarter-horses descended from the original horse ("impressive") that had this disease.
- Acetazolamide may sometimes be used to treat glaucoma in animals.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Acetazolamide should not be used in patients with liver or kidney disease, low blood sodium, low blood potassium or Addison's disease.
- Acetazolamide should not be used in patients who have lung problems or difficulty breathing as too much acid may build up in the lungs and blood.
- Acetazolamide should not be used in patients that are allergic to it or to drugs like it.
- Acetazolamide should be used with extreme caution in patients whose blood is too acidic (acidosis).
- Acetazolamide should be used with caution in diabetics as it may make blood sugar very high.
- Aspirin has a very low margin of safety in dogs and cats. The use of acetazolamide and aspirin together is not recommended in dogs or cats as this combination may make aspirin even less safe to use.
- Uric acid secretion is reduced with acetazolamide and may cause gout or certain kinds of kidney stones.
- This drug should be used cautiously in patients or by caregivers with known hypersensitivity to sulfas, as it is related to the sulfa drugs.
- Acetazolamide has caused birth defects and should not be used in pregnant or nursing animals.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- The primary adverse effect of acetazolamide in animals is stomach upset. This effect may be reduced by giving the medication with food.
- Other side effects reported include sleepiness, confusion, staggering, and seizures.
- Anemias have been reported after chronic administration of acetazolamide.
- Patients with hypercalcuiuria (too much calcium in the urine) are more likely to have kidney stone formation from acetazolamide.
- Low potassium may result and the risk is increased in the presence of potassium wasting drugs like diuretics such as furosemide (Lasix®).
- High blood sugar can sometimes result from the low potassium.
- If you notice any signs of panting, weakness, disorientation or behavior changes you should notify your veterinarian immediately.

How Should It Be Given?
- Acetazolamide is usually given orally as a tablet or an oral liquid or paste.
- The successful outcome of your animal’s treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats may receive this drug for glaucoma orally three times daily.
- Horses: Horses receive this drug orally twice daily for prevention of HYPP episodes and may receive a higher dose during an HYPP crisis.

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