

# Allopurinol

Zyloprim® is another name for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- Allopurinol is useful in preventing the buildup of a substance called uric acid that causes gout and certain types of kidney stones.

## Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Allopurinol is removed from the body by the liver and the kidneys. This drug should be used with extreme caution in animals with kidney or liver disease. 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?

- While allopurinol can cause blood problems and liver problems in people, these effects are not seen very often in animals.
- While normal doses of allopurinol are used to prevent a certain kind of kidney stone (urate) high doses of allopurinol can cause formation of a different kind of kidney stone (xanthine).
- Some animals are allergic to allopurinol and the drug should not be used in these animals.

## How Should It Be Given?

- 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.
- 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.

- **Birds:** This medication is usually given over three doses in a day or it may be added to your bird's drinking water. You should make fresh solutions daily if you are giving the medicine in the water. You should watch your pet for any signs of rash or unusual tiredness and report them to your veterinarian immediately.

- **Dogs and Cats:** This medication is usually given to dogs and cats over two to three doses in a day. You should give it after meals unless your veterinarian has told you otherwise. Your veterinarian may give other medications to increase the effectiveness of this one. Please give all medication exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed and do not miss any doses. You should watch your pet for any signs of rash or unusual tiredness and report them to your veterinarian immediately.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- This medication should be stored at room temperature in a well-closed container. This as all medications should be kept out of the reach of children and pets.