

# Ammonium Chloride

Uroze<sup>®</sup> is another name for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- This medication is used to prevent the formation of certain kinds of kidney and bladder stones. Ammonium chloride makes the urine more acidic and prevents formation of these stones.
- Ammonium chloride can also be used to increase the elimination of certain kinds of toxins or drugs from the body through the urine.
- It may also be used in combination with certain antibiotic medications to increase the effect of the antibiotic against certain bacteria in the urine.

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

- Because the liver must be functioning well to eliminate ammonia-containing substances, this drug should be used with extreme caution if you pet has liver problems.
- Because ammonium chloride can cause an increase in acidity in the whole body, not just the urine, it should be used very carefully in patients that have lung problems. The lungs are used to breathe off carbon dioxide, another acidic substance that can accumulate in the body.
- 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?

- When given by mouth, ammonium chloride can sometimes cause stomach upset and vomiting. Giving the medication with food will sometimes decrease this side effect.
- Injectable forms of ammonium chloride are very irritating and cause pain and stinging at the injection site.
- Very high doses of ammonium chloride can be dangerous. If your animal seems to be panting excessively, breathing too fast or seems unusually drowsy, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

## 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.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs usually receive ammonium chloride orally in three to four daily doses and cats usually receive the drug twice daily.
- **Horses:** Horses usually receive ammonium chloride as a powder to be sprinkled over the feed once daily.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- This medication should be stored at room temperature and protected from extreme heat and freezing. This drug should be kept away from fertilizers and other strong oxidizing substances (e.g., potassium chlorate) as the combination can be highly explosive.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Your veterinarian will ask you to monitor the acidity of your pet's urine to make sure the drug is working. You can purchase pH tape from your veterinarian or pharmacy and check the urine periodically to make sure that the pH is less than 6.5.
- **Horses:** Ammonium chloride may mask the presence of banned drugs used in performance horses so use of ammonium chloride is prohibited in any racing or showing animals.