Amoxicillin/Clavulanate

Clavamox® and Augmentin® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Amoxicillin/Clavulanate is a broad spectrum antibiotic used to treat infections in dogs and cats. Amoxicillin is a type of penicillin that is often used alone. Clavulanate is added to increase its effectiveness against certain types of bacteria.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Amoxicillin/Clavulanate is a very safe antibiotic but may cause serious problems in animals with penicillin allergies. If your animal has allergies to penicillins or has had bad reactions to penicillins in the past, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have for your animal.
- Amoxicillin/Clavulanate has caused rare liver problems in humans and this effect has been reported in a few dogs. Please let your veterinarian know if your pet has or has had severe liver problems.
- Horses may develop severe diarrhea with subsequent colic when amoxicillin/clavulanate is given orally; use is not recommended in this species.
- Rabbits can also develop severe diarrhea after given oral amoxicillin/clavulanate. You should not give your rabbit oral antibiotics without your veterinarian's advice.
- You should always give all of the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the entire course of treatment is not finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics and cause a worsening infection.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- Most animals (not horses) tolerate amoxicillin/clavulanate very well, but it may cause decreased appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. Giving this medication with food may decrease the occurrences of reduced appetite and vomiting.
- Very high doses of this drug may cause your dog to become dizzy. If you notice any behavior change or dizziness in your pet, 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.
- 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: This medication is usually given orally twice daily to dogs and cats as an oral tablet or liquid.
- Ferrets: This medication has been given to ferrets orally two to three times daily for infection.
- Birds: This medication has been given to birds orally three to four times daily for infection.
- Horses: This drug has been given to foals in an injectable form. This drug should not be given orally to horses as it may cause a severe diarrhea and subsequent colic or death.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Amoxicillin/Clavulanate should be stored in a tight, light resistant, child proof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Tablets should not be split prior to use as will cause them to rapidly deteriorate.
- Oral liquids should be shaken well, stored in the refrigerator, and not used after 10 days. They should be discarded if they turn yellow or brown.
- The human forms of this drug (Augmentin®) contain different amounts of clavulanate than the veterinary products. You should not use the human products in your pet without specific instructions from your veterinarian.