Benazepril
Lotensin® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Benazepril is used to treat heart failure, high blood pressure and some forms of kidney disease in dogs and cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Benazepril must be converted to the active drug, benazeprilat, by the liver. If your pet has severe liver disease, this drug may not work effectively.
- Benazepril should be used with caution in patients with very low sodium.
- This drug should not be used in patients with lupus.
- Benazepril has caused problems in pregnant humans and lab animals and should probably not be used in pregnancy.
- Benazepril does not cross into milk and can probably be used safely in nursing mothers.
- Benazepril can cause an increase in blood potassium levels if used with potassium or potassium sparing diuretics (spironolactone).
- 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?
- Benazepril has few side effects but the most commonly reported ones are lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Very low blood pressure can result from higher doses.
- Blood problems and rashes have been reported in humans taking benazepril, but this side effect is very rare.

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:** Dogs and cats usually receive benazepril orally once daily.
- **Horses:** Benazepril has been rarely used in horses and is considered a Class 4 drug by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Benazepril should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.