Bromides
Potassium Bromide
Sodium Bromide

KBr is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Potassium bromide or sodium bromide are used to treat dogs with epilepsy.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Bromides must be eliminated from the body by the kidneys. Animals with kidney disease may have problems with this drug.
- Human infants have suffered growth retardation when born to mothers who took bromides. Potassium bromide should probably not be used in pregnant or nursing mothers unless the benefit of use outweighs the risk of adverse effects.
- The intake of chloride will have to be very carefully controlled while your animal is on this drug. Do not give your animal any salty treats and always check with your veterinarian before giving new foods or snacks while on this medication.
- 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?
- Bromides can cause drowsiness for up to three weeks after starting the drug. Most dogs will eventually become tolerant of this effect and will not remain drowsy during further therapy.
- This drug is irritating to the gastrointestinal tract and can cause vomiting. Giving with food may decrease this effect. Preferably give the drug in food in an elevated food bowl as this will help reduce the chances that if the dog vomits, it will not be inhaled into the lungs.
- Cats can develop a lower respiratory condition (like asthma) when taking potassium bromide. If potassium bromide is used in your cat, you should watch it very closely for signs of coughing and difficulty breathing.
- This drug can also cause excessive thirst, excessive drinking and excessive urination, and has also been known to cause lack of appetite, vomiting and constipation.
- Rashes have been reported in both humans and dogs receiving this drug.

How Should It Be Given?
- Potassium bromide should be given with food fed from elevated food bowls. If capsules are given, care must be taken to ensure that the animal completely swallows the capsules and that sufficient food or water is given to carry the capsule all the way to the stomach. Capsules getting "stuck" between the mouth and stomach can cause severe irritation and damage to the throat and esophagus.
- When you first start bromide therapy, your veterinarian may instruct you to give doses that are 5 times the normal dose. This is to get bromide into your animal’s bloodstream more quickly. This is called “loading”. You should follow your veterinarian’s instructions very carefully during this period to achieve maximum response to therapy as well as to avoid any side effects. If your animal develops any muscle pain or twitching, behavior change or uneven pupils, during this loading period, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- 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 usually receive this drug orally once daily for life. It can be given as a capsule, a liquid or a chewable treat.
- **Horses:** This drug is not used in horses.

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