Enalapril

Enacard® and Vasotec® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Enalapril is used to help the heart perform more efficiently by opening up the veins and decreasing fluid retention in the body.
- It is also used to protect the kidneys from certain diseases that affect the kidneys.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- This drug must be converted to its active form in the liver. If your pet has liver disease this drug may not be effective.
- Similarly, enalapril must be eliminated from the body by the kidneys. If your pet has serious kidney disease, your veterinarian may probably lower the dose of enalapril.
- If your pet is dehydrated, the drug may become toxic. Please ensure that your pet has lots of clean water to drink while on enalapril.
- Enalapril has caused birth defects in humans and laboratory animals. You should let your veterinarian know if your pet is pregnant or going to be bred while taking enalapril.
- Use of diuretics and other heart drugs at the same time may cause too great an effect on your pet’s heart. Be sure to tell your veterinarian if your pet is on any other medications.
- 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?
- Your pet may experience stomach upset while taking this medication.
- Enalapril may initially cause some tiredness in your pet.
- Some cats have experienced damage to the kidneys after taking enalapril.
- A dry persistent cough is a common side effect in humans but has not been reported commonly for animals. If you notice an unusual cough in your animal after starting enalapril, you should report it to your veterinarian.

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 usually receive this drug orally twice daily. Cats usually receive this drug orally once daily.
- **Horses:** Enalapril is not typically used in horses and is considered a Class 3 drug by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.
- **Ferrets:** Enalapril is given orally every other day to ferrets and is usually supplied in a specially compounded oral liquid to achieve the right dose.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Enalapril should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- If you switch between the veterinary brands and human brands, you should consult your veterinarian for advice on monitoring your pet during the switch.