Phytonadione
(Vitamin K₁)

K-Caps®, Veda-K1®, Veta-K1® and Mephyton® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Phytonadione or Vitamin K₁ is used by the body to produce factors in the blood to help it coagulate and prevent bleeding. It is often used after animals eat mouse or rat poisons (anticoagulant rodenticides) that can cause severe bleeding. Because some of these poisons can stay in the body for a long time, treatment with phytonadione may be required for several weeks.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- When given by mouth for anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning, phytonadione is considered very safe.
- Phytonadione is not considered to be useful for treating bleeding caused by liver problems.
- While not proven to be safe to use during pregnancy, potential benefits to the mother and offspring generally far outweigh any risks.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?
- When given by mouth (orally), side effects caused by phytonadione are very unlikely.
- If given by injection by your veterinarian, bleeding at the site of injection can occur.
- If given into the vein (intravenously), life-threatening allergic reactions can occur and this method of giving the drug is not usually recommended.

How Should It Be Given?
- Depending on the severity of the poisoning, your veterinarian may prescribe the drug to be given once to three times a day for several weeks. It is very important that all doses are given even if the animal appears to be fine, or bleeding can again start.
- If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is now time for the next dose, give both doses at that time.
- To improve the drug's absorption form the gastrointestinal tract, it is best to give the medication with food that has a high fat content. Your veterinarian can advise you on your animal's diet during therapy.

- 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 vitamin K as an oral capsule once or twice daily for several weeks. If your pet needs a very small dose, your veterinarian may ask you to give the injectable form of vitamin K by mouth. It is very bitter, so your pharmacist may be able to flavor the injection so that it will be more acceptable to your pet.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Your veterinarian may advise you to keep your animal quiet during therapy to reduce the chance of bleeding occurring.
- Store the capsules and tablets in a light-resistant container at room temperature.
- If you have any other questions about this drug, be sure to ask your veterinarian or pharmacist.