

Piperazine

Pipa-Tabs[®] is another name for this medication. There are many "wormer" products for dogs and cats that are available without a prescription that contain piperazine. Several of these are from Sergeant's or Hart's Mountain.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Piperazine is an orally administered drug that kills roundworms (ascarids) in the gastrointestinal tract in a variety of species, including dogs and cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Piperazine should not be used in animals with chronic liver or kidney disease or in animals who have digestive problems such as chronic constipation.
- Piperazine should be used cautiously in dogs or cats that have seizures (epilepsy).
- Rupture or blockage of intestines is possible in horses who have heavy infestations of roundworms.
- Piperazine is not effective against many types of gastrointestinal parasites and should not be used for parasites other than ascarids.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- In dogs or cats, adverse effects with piperazine are uncommon when given at recommended dosages, but diarrhea, vomiting and unsteadiness (ataxia) may be seen.
- In horses or foals, adverse effects with piperazine are uncommon when given at recommended dosages, but soft feces may be seen.
- Because overdoses of piperazine may cause serious effects be sure to give the drug as instructed.
- Side effects of overdoses in cats or dogs can include vomiting, weakness, difficulty breathing, muscle twitches, rear leg unsteadiness, increased salivation, depression, dehydration, head-pressing, and eye and pupil changes. If these occur, contact 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.
- Because some other drugs can interact with this medication, you should 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:** The medication is usually given by mouth one time and then repeated in a few weeks.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Do not use laxatives or purgatives with piperazine as they may cause the drug to be eliminated from the body before it is fully effective.
- Do not give with other "wormers" unless instructed to do so by your veterinarian.
- If you have any other questions about this drug, be sure to ask your veterinarian or pharmacist.