Sotalol

Betapace® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Sotalol is a drug used to regulate your pet’s heartbeat when a condition known as ventricular tachycardia exists.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Sotalol should be used carefully, if at all, in animals with heart failure.
- Sotalol should not be used if your animal has a very slow heartbeat, asthma or other lung diseases.
- Sotalol is removed from the body by the kidneys and should be used carefully in patients with kidney disease.
- Sotalol can mask the signs of low blood sugar. It should be used very carefully in pets with diabetes. If your diabetic pet receives sotalol, your veterinarian should tell you exactly what to watch for to make sure that it is not getting dangerously low blood sugar levels.
- Sotalol may also mask the signs of an overactive thyroid and should be used carefully, if at all, in patients with hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid).
- Several drugs will affect or be affected by sotalol. You should tell your veterinarian about any medications that you are giving your pet.
- 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?
- Sotalol usually does not have many side effects when used properly.
- Some animals may develop a very slow heartbeat, become more tired and have lower blood pressure than usual.
- Rarely, animals may have difficulty breathing or vomit when taking this medication.

How Should It Be Given?
- Sotalol should preferably be given on an empty stomach (one hour before or two hours after feeding) as food can interfere with the drug’s absorption.
- 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 sotalol orally one to two times daily. Cats usually don’t receive sotalol.
- Horses: Horses don’t usually receive sotalol.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Sotalol should be stored at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Sotalol treatment can be quite expensive.