

Trimethoprim with Sulfamethoxazole or Sulfadiazine

Tribrisen[®], Tucoprim[®], Septra[®] and Bactrim[®] are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Trimethoprim sulfa combinations are strong antibiotics used to treat infections in animals.

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

- Trimethoprim/Sulfa combinations should not be used in animals who are known to be allergic to sulfa drugs. Humans with sulfa allergies should also avoid contact with this drug.
- These drugs should probably not be used if your animal has a history of severe anemia.
- Trimethoprim sulfa combinations should not be used in animals with severe liver or kidney diseases as the drug can worsen these conditions.
- Trimethoprim and sulfa drugs inhibit the brain development of growing fetuses. It should not be used in pregnant animals.
- Sulfa drugs should not be used in animals who have kidney stones or have had kidney stones as these drugs may worsen stone formation.
- Sulfas should not be used in animals that are dehydrated as stone formation may occur in the kidneys. Always make sure that your pet has plenty of fresh, clean drinking water while on sulfa drugs.
- You should always give all of the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the entire course of treatment is not finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics and cause a worsening infection.
- 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?

- Some dogs will develop dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) from sulfa drugs. If your dog starts blinking more, rubbing its eyes or has lots of eye discharge, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Some animals will develop stomach upset (vomiting and diarrhea) from trimethoprim sulfa combinations.

- Some animals may develop an arthritis like condition while on sulfa drugs.
- Trimethoprim and sulfa drugs can suppress the bone marrow and cause anemia. If you notice fever (103-105°F) or unusual tiredness in your dog or cat, you should contact your veterinarian. These drugs should probably not be used if your animal has a history of severe anemia.
- Sulfas should not be used in animals that are dehydrated as stone formation may occur in the kidneys. Always make sure that your pet has plenty of fresh, clean drinking water while on sulfa drugs.
- Some horses will get a very bad (sometimes fatal) diarrhea from paste forms of this drug given orally.
- Sulfa drugs may rarely cause a severe skin condition that can cause significant loss of skin. If you notice unusual itching or any skin inflammation while your pet is taking sulfa drugs, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Some dogs will develop an underactive thyroid on this medication if given longer than 6 weeks.

How Should It Be Given?

- This drug should be given with plenty of fresh water to help prevent the side effects that are worsened by dehydration.
- 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.

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How Should It Be Given? (continued from previous page)

- 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 trimethoprim sulfa combinations orally once or twice daily. Cats are repulsed by the taste of trimethoprim sulfa combinations and will salivate profusely if allowed to taste it. Providing trimethoprim sulfa combinations to cats in capsules or other dosage forms that will prevent direct contact with the tongue will make administration of this drug much more pleasant for both the cat and the owner.
- **Horses:** Horses usually receive this medication orally once or twice daily. Oral paste formulations of this drug have caused severe diarrheas in some horses. If your horse develops diarrhea while on this medication you should contact your veterinarian immediately for advice.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Trimethoprim sulfa combinations should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Oral liquids of trimethoprim sulfa should be shaken well before use.