

## POTASSIUM BROMIDE

**COMMON USES:** This is a medication, which has been found to be effective in treating dogs with seizure disorders such as epilepsy. This medication is often used in combination with phenobarbital when the seizures are not well controlled with the phenobarbital alone, or in dogs that cannot tolerate phenobarbital. Because potassium bromide is not metabolized by the liver, it is also often the drug of choice in dogs with liver damage.

**HOW TO USE THIS MEDICATION:** This medication is available as a liquid as well as in capsule form. The liquid form can be made with flavors such as; beef, liver, chicken, cherry etc., making administration easier. Potassium bromide should be given with food, not on an empty stomach. It can be given by mouth, squirted into a small amount of the dog's food, or given on a piece of bread. Your dog's veterinarian will determine the proper dose for your animal based on weight and blood levels. Your veterinarian may check blood levels one month after starting the medication, then on regular intervals thereafter.

**CAUTIONS:** If your dog is experiencing a seizure, giving extra potassium bromide will not stop it, the way other medications can. It may take up to four months or longer for your dog to experience the full benefit of taking potassium bromide. This medication is eliminated from the body by the kidneys. It is important not to drastically increase your dog's sodium (salt) intake while taking this medication because it may decrease the effectiveness, and lead to seizures. Do not discontinue this medication in your dog abruptly unless instructed by your veterinarian.

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:** Potassium bromide is generally well tolerated. Some side effects may include sedation, increase in appetite, excessive urination, increased thirst, rear limb weakness, or loss of coordination, skin rash, or itchy skin. Not all dogs that begin taking potassium bromide will experience these side effects, but if they do, they should diminish with time. Potassium bromide may also cause nausea, vomiting or upset stomach. Taking the medication with food should decrease these side effects. Sometimes there may be a delay in seeing side effects after starting the medication. Most side effects are dose related. If the side effects continue or seem severe, talk to your veterinarian, it may be possible to reduce the dose of potassium bromide to decrease the side effects and still maintain control of seizures.

**MISSED DOSES:** Because potassium bromide stays in the blood stream for a long time, missing a dose for a day or two may not affect the blood levels of drug in your dog. You should however let your veterinarian know about several missed doses.

The information in this monograph is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. The information is generalized and is not intended as specific medical advice. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your prescriber or pharmacist.