

Taurine

2-aminosulphonic acid is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Taurine is an essential amino acid that protects the retina of the eye as well as the heart muscle in dogs and cats. Cats cannot make taurine from other proteins so they must receive it in their diet. It is present in most commercially available pet foods but some animals will still develop a deficiency. It is given as a supplement to help animals with eye and heart disease. It may also be used to reduce seizures in cats and dogs.

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

Although taurine does not require a prescription, it should not be used unless your veterinarian has prescribed it for your pet.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

There have been some cases of stomach upset with taurine, but side effects are rare.

How Should It Be Given?

- Taurine may be given orally or mixed in the food once to twice daily.
- 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 usually receive taurine orally once or twice daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Taurine should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- It may be purchased without a prescription at health and nutrition stores as a tablet or a capsule ranging in size from 125-500mg.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook