

Ascorbic Acid

Vitamin C is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Vitamin C is necessary for all animals in order to maintain good nutrition and immune system function.
- Sometimes ascorbic acid may be used to make the urine more acid to prevent stone formation or to increase the elimination of toxic drugs.
- Vitamin C is a powerful antidote for toxins that cause oxidative injury, such as red maple and garlic.

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

- Large doses of vitamin C can mask the presence of sugar in the urine and may be dangerous for diabetics who use urine glucose tests to monitor their disease.
- Vitamin C may also inactivate the test that is used to check for blood in the stool.
- Animals with Copper Storage Disease (primarily Bedlington Terriers) should not receive vitamin C as it can worsen the condition.
- Because ascorbic acid makes the urine more acid, it can cause changes in the way a drug is eliminated from the body. Please tell your veterinarian about any other medications that your pet is receiving prior to using ascorbic acid.
- 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?

- There are very few side effects from ascorbic acid, but large doses can cause diarrhea.
- Very large doses of ascorbic acid can cause stone formation in the urine.

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.
- 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 too much vitamin C can cause diarrhea.
- 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 this drug orally as a tablet once or twice daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Ascorbic acid is very sensitive to air and light and should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets. This medication will darken upon exposure to light, but color changes do not affect potency.
- Ascorbic acid injection should not be stored or opened after its expiration date as it decomposes to a substance that will build pressure in the vial and may cause the vial to burst.