

## Prescription Label

Patient Name:

Species:

Drug Name & Strength:

Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):

Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:

Refills:

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

## Spiro lactone/Benazepril

*speer-on-oh-lak-tone / ben-a-za-pril*

### Description:

Aldosterone antagonist and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor

### Other Names for this Medication:

Cardalis<sup>®</sup>

### Common Dosage Forms:

**Veterinary:** (spironolactone/benazepril) 20 mg/2.5 mg, 40 mg/5 mg, and 80 mg/10 mg chewable meat-flavored tablets ). **Human:** None.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

### Key Information

- This medicine is labeled for use in dogs to manage signs related to congestive heart failure caused by atrioventricular valvular insufficiency (AVVI).
- It is important to give this medicine as prescribed. Do not stop or change the amount you are giving your dog without your veterinarian's guidance.
- Give this medicine with food and ensure that your dog always has access to fresh water.
- Side effects of this medication may include vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased appetite. Contact your veterinarian if any of these side effects become severe or persistent.
- Your dog will need to have periodic examinations, blood pressure measurements, and blood tests performed. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) classifies spironolactone as a hazardous drug; wearing gloves should be considered (especially if you are pregnant) when giving this medicine to your dog.

### **How is this medication useful?**

The spironolactone (aldosterone antagonist)/benazepril (ACE inhibitor) combination product is FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) approved for use in dogs for the management of signs related to congestive heart failure caused by atrioventricular valvular insufficiency (AVVI). These drugs work together to decrease stress on the heart so it can work better. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this medicine is the most appropriate choice.

### **What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?**

Many things might affect how well this medicine will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Other medicines can interact with this medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your dog, including the amount and time you give each.
- Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your dog may have now or has had in the past, especially problems with the liver or kidneys or a condition called hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease).
- If your dog has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this medicine.
- Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching) your animal has developed in the past.

### **How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?**

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours, however, you may not see the effects of this medication outwardly. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

### **When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?**

No medicine is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this medicine in your animal.

This medicine **SHOULD NOT** be used in dogs:

- That are allergic to ACE inhibitors (including benazepril and enalapril) or spironolactone.
- That have hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease), low amounts of sodium, or high amounts of potassium in their blood.
- That have heart failure caused by aortic valve or pulmonary valve problems.
- That have kidney problems and are also receiving nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (including carprofen, grapiprant, and meloxicam).
- That are pregnant or nursing.

This medicine should be used **WITH CAUTION** in dogs:

- That have kidney or liver disease.
- That are young and still growing.
- With uncontrolled diabetes mellitus or other conditions where body water, blood sugar, or blood electrolytes (salts) are out of balance.
- That are receiving certain other medications (including NSAIDs).
- That are used for breeding.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

## **What are the side effects of this medication?**

### ***Side effects that usually are not serious include:***

- Decreased appetite, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- Tiredness, low energy
- Excessive thirst and greater need to urinate
- Spironolactone can cause enlarged breasts in human males; it is not known if this occurs in animals, but if you notice enlarged nipples or breasts in your animal, contact your veterinarian.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

### ***Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:***

- Not wanting to drink or significantly decreased urinations
- Persistently poor appetite
- Persistent vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Persistent tiredness, low energy, unable to rise, collapse
- Trouble walking or keeping balance
- Increased breathing rate and/or effort

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## **If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?**

An overdose could occur if your animal takes too much of the medication. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661) and ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435); a consultation fee is charged for these services. It is helpful to have the package instructions available when calling for treatment advice.

## **How should this medication be given?**

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label and package instructions to be sure you are giving the medicine correctly.

- Give medicine with food (or within 30 minutes of feeding).
- Always provide your dog with access to fresh water at all times while receiving this medicine.
- This medicine can be given for various lengths of time, often for the rest of the dog's life. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

## **What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

## **How should I store this medication?**

Store this medication in the original container at room temperature (68°F-77°F [20°C -25°C]). If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage and expiration date recommendations for the product. Keep away from other animals and children.

## **Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?**

- This drug is not for use in humans.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) classifies spironolactone as a hazardous drug; wearing gloves should be considered (especially if you are pregnant) when giving this medicine to your dog.

- In case of accidental skin contact, wash area thoroughly with water. Avoid contact with eyes. In case of accidental ingestion by humans, contact a physician immediately. Physicians may contact a Poison Control Center for advice concerning cases of ingestion by humans.
- Keep this and all drugs out of reach of other animals and children.
- Wash your hands after handling any medication.

**How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?**

Do not flush this medicine down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, place unused medication and the packaging in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out and throw the bag out with the regular trash. Do not save leftover product for future use or give it to others to use.

**What other information is important for this medication?**

- Your dog will need to have periodic examinations, blood pressure measurements, and blood tests performed while receiving this medicine. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- Use of this medicine may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

**If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.**

**Special Instructions**

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