Butorphanol Tartrate
(Torbutrol, Torbugesic)

Common Drug Name
Butorphanol tartrate

Common Brand Names
Torbutrol or Torbugesic

No generic products are available.

Storage
Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses
Butorphanol is used as a pain reliever and cough suppressant in multiple species including dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, birds, and horses. It may also be used to prevent vomiting in animals undergoing chemotherapy.

Dose and Administration
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

You will need a new prescription for butorphanol from your veterinarian every 6 months.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects
May see sedation (drowsiness), staggering, lack of appetite, vomiting, or diarrhea. Some animals may become over-excited.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions
Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

Not for use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Use with caution in animals with hypothyroidism, liver or kidney disease, hypoadrenocortical insufficiency (Addison's disease), head trauma, increased cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) pressure, or other central nervous system (CNS) disorders such as a coma.

Use with caution in older or debilitated animals.

Not for use in animals with heartworm disease or lung diseases that have a productive cough (mucus is produced and coughed up).

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with butorphanol.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions
Consult your veterinarian before using butorphanol with vitamins, supplements, other CNS depressants (e.g., anti-histamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers), and pancuronium, since interactions may occur.

No known food interactions.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
May see sedation, coma, decreased heart rate and respiratory rate, or seizures.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.