Mexiletine
(Mexitil)

**Common Drug Name**
Mexiletine

**Common Brand Names**
Mexitil

No generic products are available.

**Storage**
Refrigerate oral suspension. Store other forms at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

**Uses**
Mexiletine is an antiarrhythmic agent. It is used to treat ventricular arrhythmias (irregular heart beats associated with the ventricles of the heart). It is often used in conjunction with other heart medications.

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

Giving mexiletine with a meal may decrease some side effects.

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**
The most common side effects are vomiting and loss of appetite. 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 mexiletine.

If given to nursing mothers, mexiletine will enter the milk, so the use of a milk replacer is recommended.

Do not use in animals with 2nd or 3rd degree AV block (a type of heart condition).

Use with caution in animals with severe congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, liver disease, hypotension (low blood pressure), or seizure disorders.

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

**Drug and Food Interactions**
Consult your veterinarian before using mexiletine with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, phenobarbital, primidone, griseofulvin, rifampin, tolbutamide, opiates, antacids containing aluminum/magnesium, or urinary acidifiers (e.g., methionine, ammonium chloride, or certain diets formulated to prevent or remove bladder stones), cimetidine, or theophylline, since interactions may occur.

Metoclopramide or drugs or diets that alkalinate the urine may increase the effects of mexiletine.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
May see tremors, unsteadiness, staggering, depression, seizures, weakness, or shortness of breath.

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.*