Ranitidine
(Zantac)

Common Drug Name
Ranitidine

Common Brand Names
Zantac

Generic products are available.

Storage
Store the oral form at room temperature in a tight, light resistant childproof container.
The injectable form should be stored in the refrigerator.

Uses
Ranitidine is in a class of drugs called H2 receptor antagonists. It is used to decrease the amount of stomach acid produced. This aids in the treatment of ulcers that are present and helps prevent ulcer formation. It is also used in the treatment of gastritis (inflammation of the stomach), esophagitis (inflammation of the esophagus), and gastric or esophageal reflux. It may also stimulate movement of food through the stomach and intestine.

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

Give the oral forms by mouth, without food; food will decrease its effectiveness.

The injectable form may be given in the muscle (IM), subcutaneously (SQ, subQ, under the skin), or intravenously (IV).

Signs may recur if a dose is missed. 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 dosing 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
Side effects are rare. May see diarrhea or an irregular heartbeat. If the injectable form is given IM, there may be pain at the injection site. If you observe these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian.

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
Do not use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

Use with caution in animals with heart, liver, or kidney disease.

Ranitidine may cause increases in liver enzymes, and possible liver damage.

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

Drug, Food and Test Interactions
Consult your veterinarian before using ranitidine with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, since interactions may occur.

Ranitidine may decrease white blood cell counts, especially if given with other bone marrow suppressing drugs such as azathioprine.

If used with antacids, propantheline bromide, or ketoconazole, give the ranitidine 2 hours before or 2 hours after the other medication(s).

Ranitidine may cause increases in liver enzymes, and possible liver damage.

May cause a falsely positive laboratory test for protein in the urine.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
Toxicities are rare. May see vomiting, diarrhea, irregular heartbeat, muscle tremors, and rapid breathing.

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.