Terbutaline
(Brethine, Bricanyl)

Common Drug Name
Terbutaline

Common Brand Names
Brethine, Bricanyl

No generic products are available

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

Uses
Terbutaline is a bronchodilator, which relaxes the airways and makes breathing easier. It is used to treat asthma, tracheobronchitis, collapsing trachea, allergic bronchitis, and certain lung conditions (e.g., pulmonary edema). It may also be used in the treatment of an abnormally slow heart rate.

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

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 cause increased heart rate, tremors, nervousness, and dizziness. These effects usually disappear after a short time. If they are severe, persistent, or your pet’s condition worsens, 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
Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to terbutaline.

Use with caution in animals with diabetes, hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid gland), high blood pressure, a history of seizures, or low levels of potassium in the blood.

Use with extreme caution in animals with heart disease.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

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

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions
Consult your veterinarian before using terbutaline with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, antidepressants, or beta-blockers (certain heart medications such as propranolol), since interactions may occur.

Digitalis, digoxin, or inhaled anesthetics may increase the risk of abnormal heart rhythms in animals taking terbutaline.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
May see seizures, dilated pupils, fever, vomiting, weakness, collapse, or rapid and irregular heart rates. 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.