Acepromazine (Promace)

**Common Drug Name**
Acepromazine

**Common Brand Names**
Promace and Aceproject

Generic products are available.

**Storage**
Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Protect the injectable liquid from freezing.

**Uses**
Acepromazine is a tranquilizer used to sedate animals for minor procedures (e.g., nail trims) and prevent vomiting due to motion sickness. It is also used prior to anesthesia, and helps to keep the heart rhythm stable under certain conditions. It is not a pain reliever. It is used in dogs, cats, and horses, as well as other species.

**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 see droopy eyelids with the third eyelid more exposed, incoordination, or slower heart rate and breathing.

Urine may appear pink or reddish brown following use of acepromazine.

May cause aggressiveness and stimulation in some animals.

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 or other phenothiazines.

Use with caution in debilitated or geriatric animals and those with liver or heart disease.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young) unless benefits outweigh the risks.

Do not use in animals with hypovolemia (low blood volume), anemia, or shock.

Do not use in animals with tetanus or strychnine toxicity.

May cause seizures. Do not use with animals known to have seizures or are having medical procedures known to cause seizures (e.g., myelograms).

When used to aid in restraint, the sedative effect can be overridden and the animal may bite or jump unexpectedly.

Acepromazine is an inappropriate medication for the treatment of aggression since it can make aggressive animals less predictable, and can interfere with training.

Causes low blood pressure and inability to maintain proper body temperature.

Does not provide any pain relief.

Giant breeds, greyhounds, and boxers may be more sensitive to its effects; terriers may be less sensitive.

Effects may last 6-8 hours, and results may not be consistent when given orally.

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

**Drug, Food, and Test Interactions**
Consult your veterinarian before using acepromazine with vitamins, supplements, atropine, central nervous system (CNS) depressant drugs (such as barbiturates, narcotics, and antidepressants), organophosphate dewormer or insecticide, kapectate, Pepto-Bismal, other antidiarrheal mixtures, antacids, propranolol, and epinephrine.

May have an adverse heart reaction if used with quinidine.

Phenytoin levels and procaine activity may be increased if used with acepromazine.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
May see excessive sedation, slowed breathing and heart rates, pale gums, unsteady movements, unconsciousness, low blood pressure, 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.

This information may not cover all possible uses, directions, side effects, precautions, allergic reactions, drug interactions, or withdrawal times. Always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your pet.