Acetylcysteine
(Mucomyst, Mucosil)

**Common Drug Name**
Acetylcysteine

**Common Brand Names**
Mucomyst and Mucosil
Generic products are available.

**Storage**
Store unopened containers at room temperature. After opening, containers should be kept refrigerated, but not frozen, and used within 96 hours (4 days). Store out of reach of children and pets.

**Uses**
Acetylcysteine is a mucolytic agent, meaning it breaks down or dissolves mucus. It is usually given by nebulization. It is used to treat certain lung conditions when increased amounts of mucus make breathing difficult. Acetylcysteine liquefies (thins) or dissolves mucus so that it may be coughed up.

Acetylcysteine may also be given orally as an antidote for acetaminophen (Tylenol) toxicity or overdose.

It is also available in eye drops to help remove the thick discharge seen in dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca).

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

When given orally, the medication does not taste good, and may need to be flavored.

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**
When given by nebulization, may rarely see difficulty breathing. When given by mouth, may see nausea and vomiting. 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 acetylcysteine.

Use with caution and careful monitoring in animals with bronchial diseases causing spasms, such as asthma.

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

**Drug, Food, and Test Interactions**
Consult your veterinarian before using acetylcysteine with vitamins and supplements, since interactions may occur.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
Acetylcysteine is quite safe, and side effects are rare. May see difficulty breathing or hives. If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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