Potassium Oral Supplements
(Tumil-K, RenaKare)

Common Drug Name
Potassium gluconate gel, powder, and tablets

Common Brand Names
Tumil-K, RenaKare

Generic products are available.

Storage
Store tightly closed at room temperature, between 59-86°F. Because the gel is flavored and appealing to animals, store in a secure area to prevent an accidental overdose.

Uses
Potassium gel, tablets, and powder are used as an oral supplement for animals with potassium deficiency.

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

Powder: The prescribed dose should be mixed with food. It is best to mix it with a small amount of food that should be eaten before the pet receives the remainder of the meal to ensure the entire amount of medication is ingested.

Tablets: Tablets should be given by mouth.

Gel: The gel is flavored. To interest your pet in licking the gel, place a small amount of the gel on the animal’s nose or the roof of his mouth. If your pet accepts the taste, subsequent doses may be placed on the animal’s paw, for the animal to lick off.

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 nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, especially if not given with food.

Precautions
Do not use in animals with hyperkalemia (high potassium blood levels), severe kidney disease, acute dehydration, untreated Addison’s disease (hypoadrenocorticism), or hemolysis (breakdown of red blood cells).

Do not use tablet forms in animals with constipation.

Use with caution in animals with heart disease, particularly those taking the medication digoxin.

Do not use in animals with severe or complete heart block who are taking digoxin.

Because the gel is flavored and appealing to animals, store in a secure area to prevent an accidental overdose.

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

Drug, Food and Test Interactions
Consult your veterinarian before giving potassium supplementation with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as aspirin, etodolac (EtoGesic), deracoxib (Deramaxx), or carprofen (Rimadyl), since interactions may occur.

High potassium levels may result if used with angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitors (e.g., enalapril or Enacard) or with potassium-sparing diuretics (e.g., spironolactone).

There is a greatly increased risk of stomach ulcers, vomiting, or other gastrointestinal problems if potassium supplements are used with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
An overdose may result in vomiting, muscle weakness, abnormal heart rhythms, slow heart rate and a weak pulse.

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.