Prescription Label

- **Patient Name:**
- **Species:**
- **Drug Name & Strength:**
- **Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):**
- **Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:**
- **Refills:**

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

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**Carvedilol**

(kar-vay-da-lol)

**Description:** Alpha1 and Beta-Adrenergic Blocker

**Other Names for this Medication:** Coreg®, Coreg® CR

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg, & 25 mg regular release tablets; 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, & 80 mg extended-release capsules. Carvedilol may also be made (compounded) into an oral liquid.

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This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

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**Key Information**

- Carvedilol is best given with food.
- When starting this drug, your veterinarian may start with a low dose and gradually increase it over time. It is important for you to be aware of the changing doses and administer exactly as your veterinarian prescribes.
- If any doses are too large, carvedilol may cause your animal’s condition to worsen; the animal may show signs of loss of appetite, depression, lack of energy, or weakness. If any of these occur, call your veterinarian immediately.
- Compounded liquids of carvedilol **SHOULD NOT** be stored in the refrigerator.

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**How is this medication useful?**

Carvedilol is an alpha1 and beta-receptor blocker that veterinarians may prescribe for treatment of heart failure associated with dilated cardiomyopathy in dogs. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

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**What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?**

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best decisions for treating your animal.

- Other drugs can possibly cause problems when taken with carvedilol, including other heart medications such as other beta-blockers (eg, atenolol, sotalol, propranolol), calcium channel blockers (eg, diltiazem, amlodipine, or verapamil), and digoxin. Be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of each.

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Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.

If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work.

If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.

Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, and/or hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?
This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours; however, you will not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your veterinarian will need to run further tests to determine if the medication is working appropriately.

The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?
No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.
This drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients that:

- Have severe heart failure, asthma, heart block, or very slow heart rates.
- Are in shock.
- Have had an allergic reaction to it or other drugs in the same class, (eg, propranolol, metoprolol) in the past.

This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in patients that:

- Have liver problems.
- Have active heart failure or a history of heart failure.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

**Side effects that usually are not serious include:**

- Lack of energy or acting tired, usually at the beginning of treatment.

You don’t have to be overly concerned if you see this sign unless it is severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

**Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:**

- Very slow heart rate, collapse (passes out), weakness, or coughing, wheezing, or trouble breathing. These do not occur commonly and may mean the dose is too high. If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?
Carvedilol overdoses can be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?
Give this medication exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- Carvedilol is best given with food.
- Compounded liquid forms must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Do not stop giving this medicine to your animal without talking with your veterinarian first. Stopping this medicine too quickly can make your animal very sick.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?
If you miss a dose, wait and give the dose at the next scheduled time, then go back to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up doses or give an extra dose.
**How should I store this medication?**
- Store tablets in the original child- and light-resistant, tightly closed prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Generally, compounded carvedilol suspensions **SHOULD NOT** be stored in the refrigerator.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

**Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?**
There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

**How should I dispose of this medication if I don’t use it all?**
- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

**What other information is important for this medication?**
- Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.