

### 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]

## Potassium Citrate

(*poe-tass-ee-um si-trate*)

**Description:** Urinary Alkalinizer

**Other Names for this Medication:** Nutrived®, Urocit-K®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** 300 mg/5 g scoop oral granules; also contains fatty acids and amino acids. **Human:** There are several dosage forms available including tablets, syrups, & oral solutions. Compounded dosage forms may be available.

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.

### Key Information

- ▶ Usually given with or mixed into food.
- ▶ Use of this medication requires ongoing monitoring by your veterinarian. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

### How is this medication useful?

In dogs and cats, potassium citrate can be used to prevent the formation of a type of urinary bladder and kidney stones (calcium oxalate). In animals with chronic chronic kidney disease, it can be used to increase blood potassium levels and decrease buildup of acids in the urine and blood. 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 although a combination product is labeled for use in dogs and cats. 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.

### 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 treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with potassium citrate, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ 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, 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 are allergic to it.
- ▶ That have high levels of potassium in their blood (hyperkalemia) or have a condition that puts them at risk for hyperkalemia such as Addison's disease, acute dehydration, severe kidney disease, or uncontrolled diabetes.
- ▶ That have aluminum toxicity, heart failure, or urinary tract infections associated with calcium or struvite bladder stones.
- ▶ That have stomach ulcers or serious gastrointestinal (GI) tract conditions. Tablet forms of this drug should not be used in these animals.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That have chronic diarrhea.
- ▶ That have kidney problems that cause high levels of acids in the blood.

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

### **What are the side effects of this medication?**

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

- ▶ Vomiting or diarrhea. Not common, as most animals tolerate oral potassium citrate well.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

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

- ▶ High blood potassium. Indications that this is a problem include: muscle weakness, collapse, and low energy level.

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?**

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: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

### **How should this medication be given?**

For this medication to work, give it 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.

- ▶ Potassium citrate is usually given to animals either mixed well with canned food or given directly into the mouth just before feeding.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication 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 with 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. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

### **What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

**How should I store this medication?**

- ▶ Store this medication in the original 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.
- ▶ 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?**

- ▶ Your veterinarian will need to do periodic blood tests on your animal while it is taking this medicine. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- ▶ 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.**

Special Instructions: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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