

Albuterol (Proventil, Ventolin)

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Generic Name

Albuterol

Brand Names

Proventil, Ventolin

Type of Drug

Bronchodilator

Form and Storage

Oral: tablets, capsules, syrup

Aerosol

For inhalation: solution or capsules.

Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, store at room temperature. Leave capsules for inhalation in original packaging until needed.

Indication for Use

Treatment of bronchospasm, asthma, or cough.

General Information

Not FDA approved for use in veterinary medicine. It is an accepted practice to use albuterol in specific cases, but it is not a common treatment. Available by prescription. This medication works by relaxing the bronchial smooth muscle and opening airways making it easier for the pet to breathe. It is used orally and by inhalation.

Usual Dose and Administration

Dogs and Cats: 0.01-0.03 mg/pound by mouth every 8-24 hours. Duration of treatment depends on reason for treatment and response to treatment. For inhaler doses contact your veterinarian.

Side Effects

May see increased heart rate, tremors, excitement, restlessness, dizziness, or nervousness. These tend to be dose related and mild.

Contraindications/Warnings

Not for use in patients hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

Use with caution in patients with diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, high blood pressure, seizures, heart disease, or abnormal heart rhythms.

Monitor potassium levels in the blood, as supplementation may be needed.

Not for use in pregnant or nursing animals.

Drug or Food Interactions

Increase risk of heart/respiratory problems if used with other sympathomimetic drugs like phenylephrine or ephedrine.

May have decreased effect if used with propranolol and other beta blockers.

May have increased effect if used with tricyclic antidepressants or monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).

Albuterol lowers digoxin levels.

May increase risk of abnormal heart rhythms if used with gas anesthetics like halothane or isoflurane.

No known food interactions.

Overdose/Toxicity

May see abnormal heart rhythms and rates, high blood pressure, high body temperature, vomiting, excitement, dilated pupils,

or low blood potassium levels.

Summary

Albuterol, a bronchodilator, is available by prescription in multiple forms. Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences fever, vomiting, excitement, dilated pupils, or abnormal heart rates while taking albuterol.

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

If you think your pet has been poisoned...

Contact your veterinarian or one of the Animal Poison Hotlines (listed below) if you think your pet may have accidentally received or been given an overdose of the medication.

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center - 24-hour service available throughout North America.

www.aspca.org/poison

1-888-4ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435). \$65.00 per case, billed to caller's credit card.

Follow-up calls can be made for no additional charge by dialing 888-299-2973.

There is no charge when the call involves a product covered by the Animal Product Safety Service.

**Pet Poison Helpline - 24-hour service available throughout North America for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet.

1-800-213-6680 (\$59.00 per incident). Staffed 24-hours a day.

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