Plumb's Drug Handouts

# Sulfadimethoxine

(*sul-fa-**dye**-meth-ox-een*)

**Key Information**

- Sulfadimethoxine is an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections and coccidiosis.
- Give with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.
- Shake liquids well before each dose.
- Make sure your animal has access to plenty of fresh drinking water while on this medication.
- Common side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased appetite.
- This medication can cause dry eye syndrome. Contact your veterinarian if you notice redness of the eyes, eye discharge, increased blinking, or squinting.
- It is important to finish the entire course of treatment, even if your animal starts feeling better.

**Note:** The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

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| **Description** | • Sulfonamide (sulfa) antibiotic<br>• Available as tablets and oral suspensions |
| **Other common names** | *Albon* |
| **Uses** | FDA-approved uses in animals:<br>• Treatment of bacterial infections in dogs and cats<br>• Treatment of parasitic infections caused by coccidia (*coccidiosis*) in dogs<br>At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use), such as:<br>• Treatment of coccidiosis in cats |
| **Before this medication is given** | No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian:<br>• Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking<br>• Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past<br>• Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past<br>• The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing |
| **Warnings for animals** | Do **not** use in animals that:<br>• Are allergic to it or other sulfa drugs<br>• Have severe liver or kidney disease<br>• Are severely dehydrated<br>Use with **caution** in:<br>• Doberman pinschers, Samoyeds, and miniature schnauzers<br>• Patients with liver or kidney disease<br>• Animals with current or previous kidney or bladder stones<br>• Pregnant or nursing animals<br>Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication. |
| **Warnings for humans** | • Wash your hands after handling any medication.<br>• Wear gloves or avoid handling if you are allergic to sulfonamide antibiotics or other sulfa drugs. |

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| **How do I give this medication?** | • Give with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.<br>• If using a liquid, shake well before each dose.<br>• Measure liquids using an oral syringe, medicine cup, or dosing spoon. Do not use household measuring devices.<br>• Make sure your animal has access to plenty of fresh drinking water while on this medication.<br>*Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.* |
| **Side effects** | **Common** – contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time:<br>• Vomiting<br>• Diarrhea<br>• Decreased appetite<br>**Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs:<br>• Redness of the eyes, eye discharge, increased blinking, or squinting. These may be signs of dry eye syndrome (*keratoconjunctivitis sicca* or *KCS*).<br>• Straining to urinate or blood in the urine<br>• Skin conditions, including sores, skin that appears to be burned, severe itching, and loss of fur<br>• Increased thirst and urination<br>• Swelling of face<br>• Yellowing of the gums or whites of the eyes (*jaundice*) |
| **How will I know it's working?** | • Your animal should start feeling better within 1 to 2 days.<br>*Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.* |
| **How long will the medication effects last?** | • This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose.<br>• It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney or liver function. |
| **How long do I give it for?** | This medication can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. You may need to refill the prescription. |
| **Overdose** | Overdose may cause diarrhea, but some animals may not show any signs at all. Overdoses may cause damage to the nervous system.<br>If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (consultation fee applies):<br>• **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**: (888) 426-4435<br>• **Pet Poison Helpline**: (855) 764-7661<br>*Have the product or label with you if possible.* |
| **Missed dose** | In most cases, if you miss a dose:<br>• Give it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule.<br>If it is close to the time for the next dose:<br>• Skip the missed dose.<br>• Give the next dose at the next scheduled time.<br>• Continue the regular dosing schedule.<br>*If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up doses or give extra doses.* |
| **Storage** | • Store in original container at room temperature.<br>• Protect from light.<br>• Keep out of reach of children and animals. |

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| **Disposal** | Do **not** flush this medication down the toilet or wash down the sink. Options for disposing of unused or expired medications include:<br>• Drug take-back sites: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities.<br>• Home disposal: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal the mixture in a plastic bag, and throw it away in the trash.<br>*Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.* |
| **Questions?** | Talk to your veterinarian. |

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