

# Potassium Bromide (*K-BroVet*<sup>®</sup>)

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## SUMMARY:

- 1) Many pets will be sleepy or drunk on this medication. This usually goes away after about two weeks of starting or changing the dose of this medication.
- 2) This medication can cause increased hunger, thirst and urination.
- 3) This medication is associated with pancreatitis.
- 4) It is important to keep your pet's diet, particularly the salt content, consistent while on this medication.
- 5) Never stop or change seizure medication without first speaking with a veterinarian.

## EXPLANATION:

Potassium Bromide is an anticonvulsant or seizure medication. The goal of this medication is to make your pet's seizure less frequent and less severe. It is unlikely that any seizure medication will make your pet 100% seizure free.

It is very important to give this medication on schedule. Make a note of when you need refills, and try to get them at least one week in advance. Set a timer on your watch or phone to help remind you to give the medication on schedule.

This medication is usually given once or twice a day (check your medication label), and should be given with food.

## MONITORING:

Regular vet visits are important while on any seizure medication. We recommend visits twice a year to discuss how your pet is doing. At these visits your vet may want to check blood work.

Ideally, we like to check potassium bromide drug levels three months after starting this medication or changing the dose.

In all pets on this medication we recommend yearly drug levels, general blood work (called a CBC and Chemistry) and a urinalysis.

## SIDE EFFECTS:

- 1) Many pets will act sleepy or drunk while their body adjust to the medication. It can take two weeks for some pets to adjust. If your pet is especially incoordinated, keep them away from things like swimming pools and staircases until they are more sure on their feet.
- 2) Some pets will be much hungrier on this medication. Monitor the amount of food they are eating. It may be helpful to switch them to a diet food so they can eat more food and not get fat. It is also important to watch for inappropriate eating- some dogs will start eating toys or getting into the garbage while they are on this medication.



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- 3) Some pets will be thirsty and will need to urinate more often on this medication. It is important not to restrict their water intake during the day. If they are having accidents overnight, you may pull up their water after dinner-time, but be sure to give them a full bowl of water in the morning.
- 4) Some pets will vomit on this medication. This can often be fixed by giving half of the dose twice a day rather than a full dose once a day. If your pet is vomiting, discuss dividing the dose with your veterinarian
- 5) This medication has been associated with pancreatitis in dogs. Dog with chronic pancreatitis may be better served with a different seizure medication.
- 6) Cats cannot be safely given this medication due to a serious respiratory complication.
- 7) Your dog's chloride levels will read as high on most bloodwork. This is normal, and is simply the machine mistaking the bromide in the medication for the similar molecule chloride.

#### **SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:**

- 1) Shake the liquid form well before use. Do not switch between liquid and tablets without discussing this with your vet as the medication can be absorbed differently in different forms.
- 2) It's best to keep your pet on the same dog food, as changes in salt content will change how the body metabolizes this medication. Similarly salty snacks or drinking ocean water can dangerously drop your pets medication levels and should be avoided.
- 3) IV fluids can cause a sudden drop in blood levels of this medication. Discuss this with your veterinarian before any surgical procedures or hospitalizations.

