

### **Spironolactone**

**Spironolactone** (brand name: Aldactone®) has been added to your pet's therapy for congestive heart failure or hypertension (high blood pressure). Spironolactone is an aldosterone antagonist used as a potassium-sparing diuretic, which also has anti-fibrotic effects that are protective to the heart muscle. Spironolactone prevents the excessive sodium and water retention that can exacerbate heart failure or high blood pressure. Spironolactone is most commonly used in patients with congestive heart failure who may already be receiving furosemide (Lasix®), angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (for example, enalapril or benazepril) and pimobendan. Some patients receive spironolactone when they have developed low potassium on other medications. Spironolactone may also be used to treat high blood pressure in some animals. Use of spironolactone in dogs with congestive heart failure may prolong survival.

Spironolactone has few side effects, but because it affects electrolyte and water balance, your veterinarian may request that you monitor your pet with blood tests periodically. Please notify your veterinarian if there are symptoms of GI upset (vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite) or development of abdominal distention or unexpected weight gain. There have also been reports of cats developing skin lesions and perceived itchiness on spironolactone. If you notice any potential side effects in your pet while on this medication, please contact your consulting veterinarian.

The best way to treat problems due to cardiac medications is to prevent them or to "catch" the problem early. Please call your pet's consulting veterinarian or cardiologist if you have any questions or problems with your pet's cardiac therapy.