

Diazepam

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Diazepam is used to relieve anxiety, as a muscle relaxant, as a hypnotic agent, as an appetite stimulant and to control seizures. Diazepam is a benzodiazepine. This class of medicines is used to slow down the nervous system.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian.
READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.
- If the medicine is a liquid, measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed and do not give more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.



What do I do if I miss giving a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

What are the potential side effects?

- When used in cats, this medication may cause changes in the cat's behavior. The cat may appear irritable and depressed.
- When used in dogs, the dog may become excited.
- Other common side effects include: drowsiness, failure of muscular co-ordination.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

Are there any possible drug interactions?

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving to your pet. Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.

The following drugs can potentially interact with diazepam: cimetidine, erythromycin, isoniazid, ketoconazole, propranolol, valproic acid, other CNS depressants, digoxin, rifampin, pancuronium, and succinylcholine.

- If your pet needs to take diazepam and an antacid, administer the medicine two hours apart.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

REMEMBER! READ THE LABEL.

*This client information sheet is based on material written by Rita Ozolins, B.Sc., Phm.
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