

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup>SMITH<sup>®</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501  
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

## Alprazolam

(Xanax)

### Common Drug Name

Alprazolam

### Common Brand Names

Xanax (human form)

Generic products are available.

### Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

### Uses

Alprazolam is in a class of medications called benzodiazepines. It is used to treat behavior disorders, especially those related to anxiety, in dogs and cats.

### Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Alprazolam is given by mouth.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

### Possible Side Effects

Most side effects are related to drowsiness or sedation.

Dogs: Some may become overexcited instead of sedated.

Cats: May see changes in behavior, such as irritability, increased affection, or depression.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

### Precautions

Not for use in animals who are hypersensitive (allergic) to it or other benzodiazepine medications such as diazepam (Valium).

Use with caution in aggressive animals, as it may rarely increase aggression.

Use with caution in older or debilitated animals, or those with kidney disease, liver disease, and certain types of glaucoma.

Not for use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Use with caution in working animals (military dogs, police dogs, seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, etc.), as it may cause too much sedation and impede the ability of the animal to work and learn.

Can become addictive.

Withdrawal symptoms if discontinued suddenly after long-term use.

Alprazolam is a controlled substance. You will need a new prescription from your veterinarian every 6 months.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with alprazolam.

### Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using vitamins, supplements, cimetidine, erythromycin, isoniazid, ketoconazole, propranolol, and valproic acid, or other central nervous system depressants (e.g., narcotics, barbiturates), digoxin, and rifampin, since interactions may occur.

### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see confusion, decreased reflexes, or coma.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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