

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] 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.

Diazepam

(Valium)

Common Drug Name

Diazepam

Common Brand Names

Valium

Generic products are available.

Storage

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

Uses

Diazepam is used in animals as a sedative, anticonvulsant, and to treat certain behavior disorders, such as anxiety. It may also be used for its effect of relaxing both skeletal muscles (muscles used in movement) and smooth muscles (muscles of the digestive system and urinary bladder). In cats it has been used as an appetite stimulant.

Dose and Administration

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

You will need a new prescription for diazepam from your veterinarian every 6 months.

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

The most common side effects are sleepiness and sedation. Some dogs will get unusually excited instead of becoming sedated. Some cats will become irritable or display abnormal behaviors.

May see liver damage, which may cause loss of appetite; vomiting; depression; jaundice (yellowing of the gums, skin, or eyes); anemia, with weakness and pale gums; or low platelets, with an increased tendency to bruise or bleed. 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 hypersensitive (allergic) to diazepam or similar medications.

Use with extreme caution in animals who have liver disease. May cause a fatal liver problem in cats. Use with caution in animals who are older, dehydrated or anemic, have kidney disease or difficulty breathing, or are in shock.

Use with caution in aggressive animals.

Diazepam can cause birth defects. Do not use in breeding, 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.

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

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using diazepam with vitamins and supplements, cimetidine, fluoxetine, erythromycin, isoniazid, ketoconazole, propranolol, metoprolol, valproic acid, rifampin, digoxin, probenecid, or sedating drugs such as phenobarbital, since interactions may occur. .

Antacids may affect the absorption of diazepam from the digestive system. Give diazepam 2 hours before or 2 hours after any antacid(s).

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see increased sedation, coma, difficulty breathing, incoordination or stumbling, or liver damage, as described under "Side Effects."

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

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