

Alprazolam - Main

Alprazolam - Tablet (Cats)

Alprazolam - Tablet (Dogs)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Alprazolam is an oral benzodiazepine tranquilizer used in dogs and cats for the treatment of various behavior disorders, especially anxiety problems. It is also used as a sedative, helps suppress seizure activity and is useful as a muscle relaxant. Best results are achieved with most behavior drugs by simultaneous use of behavior modification training. Alprazolam is available in 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 2 mg tablets.

Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Alprazolam is a controlled substance. This is a medication that has the potential for abuse. These medications can assist in providing appropriate patient care but also require a valid veterinary client-patient relationship and a veterinary prescription. Further legislation regarding storage, prescription, dispensing, and record keeping have been put in place to prevent drug abuse.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine tranquilizer

Alprazolam is given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To treat panic disorders in dogs (especially those associated with fireworks, thunderstorms or other loud noise stimuli)

To reduce anxiety disorders in cats (e.g. house soiling)

For use as a sedative

Often used in combination with other anti-seizure medication

For use as a muscle relaxant

May be prescribed in conjunction with behavior modification training

Lasts longer than diazepam

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THIS MEDICATION?

Use with caution in pets with liver or kidney disease

Use with caution in older, debilitated animals, or those with certain types of glaucoma

Use with caution in working dogs (military/police/seeing eye/hearing, etc.) as too much sedation may impede their ability to work and learn

Pregnant and nursing animals

Pets known to have had an allergic reaction to Alprazolam or other benzodiazepine medications (e.g. Valium)

If your pet is presently taking similar products (unless directed by your veterinarian)

DIRECTIONS:

Give medication as directed by your veterinarian. This medication is usually given two to four times daily.

Read and follow the label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Finish the entire course of treatment.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Alprazolam is a controlled drug. You will need a new prescription every 6 months. Your veterinarian must keep special records of its use.

Call ahead for refills.

WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

When will your pet need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

Risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store Alprazolam in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Due to the potential for abuse, Alprazolam should be stored in a locked cabinet.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Sedation, drowsiness

Rare dogs have experienced excitation instead of sedation

Can become addictive

Possible liver failure in cats. Liver enzymes should be monitored before and during therapy.

Some anti-anxiety medications used on aggressive animals may stimulate aggressive behavior. Always supervise a test-dose to ensure your pet is not over-tranquilized or aggressive.

Cats: behavior changes (irritability, increased affection, depression)

Discontinuing Alprazolam abruptly may lead to unpleasant withdrawal symptoms

If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur with amiodarone, aminophylline, antacids, antihypertensives (amlodipine, enalapril, telmisartan), atracurium, azole antifungals (fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), carbamazepine, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (dichlorphenamide, methazolamide), central nervous system (CNS) depressants (anesthetics, barbiturates, narcotics), cimetidine, dexamethasone, digoxin, diltiazem, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, isoniazid, ifosfamide, ivermectin, lithium, macrolide antibiotics (clarithromycin, erythromycin), maropitant,

milbemycin, mitotane, opioids, pancuronium, phenobarbital, phenytoin, propofol, rifampin, theophylline, tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine, imipramine), valproic acid and yohimbine

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Alprazolam

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, Alprazolam should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about Alprazolam. If you have any questions or concerns about Alprazolam or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.