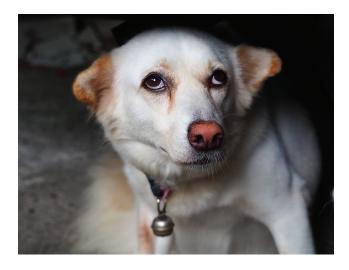
Alprazolam

Benzodiazepine Sedative/Tranquilizer (Systemic Drug)



Prescriber Highlights

- Used for adjunctive behavioral treatment in dogs and cats, especially for prophylaxis of anxiety triggered by storms, fireworks, and similar events
- C-IV controlled substance

Uses, Indications

- Useful for adjunctive therapy in anxious, aggressive dogs, or animals demonstrating panic reactions
- Most effective when used before a triggering event
- May be useful in treating anxiety disorders in cats
- Unlike oral diazepam, alprazolam has not been implicated in causing liver failure in cats

Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings

Contraindications

Some veterinarians believe alprazolam is contraindicated in aggressive patients, as anxiety may restrain animals from aggressive tendencies. This remains controversial.

Information about this drug was adapted from Plumb's® Veterinary Drugs. Further details and more therapeutics can be found with a subscription at plumbsveterinarydrugs.com

Precautions

Patients with impaired hepatic or renal function or narrow angle glaucoma; debilitated or geriatric patients

Warnings

May impair working animal performance; has potential for human abuse and drug diversion

Side Effects

- Sedation, transient ataxia, and increased appetite
- In cats, irritability, depression, increased affection, and aberrant demeanor are also possible
- Rarely, dogs may exhibit a contradictory response (eg, CNS excitement including increased aggression, anxiety, agitation)

Drug Interactions*

- May increase serum levels of tricyclic antidepressants (eg, amitriptyline, clomipramine) and digoxin
- Alprazolam metabolism may decrease when used with hepatically metabolized drugs (eg, cimetidine, erythromycin, ketoconazole, itraconazole)
- Additive effects may occur when used with other CNS depressant agents (eg, barbiturates, narcotics, anesthetics)
- Fluoxetine and fluvoxamine may increase serum alprazolam levels

*Not a complete list

Monitoring

- Clinical efficacy and side effects
- Consider monitoring hepatic enzymes in cats when used long term

Client Information

- Administer alprazolam 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to triggering events
- Most common side effect is drowsiness, but excitement and behavioral changes (eg, increased appetite), although rare, may occur, especially in cats
- Immediately report yellowing of the gums, skin, or whites of the eyes

Dosage Forms

- The following are humanlabeled products available for veterinary off-label use:
 - Alprazolam oral tablets: 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, and 2 mg
 - Alprazolam extendedrelease oral tablets: 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, and 3 mg
 - Alprazolam orally disintegrating tablets: 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, and 2 mg
 - Alprazolam oral solution: 1 mg/mL in 30 mL
- —Compiled and summarized from Plumb's® Veterinary Drugs by Shannon Palermo, VMD