

## Diazepam

**SCHEDULING STATUS:** S5

### CURRENTLY COMPOUNDED FORMULATIONS:

| Active ingredient(s) | Injectable | Oral equine paste | Oral carnivore paste | Orals for exotics | Oral solution/suspension | Topical treatment | Shampoo | Capsules/Tablets | Oral powder |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Diazepam             |            |                   |                      |                   |                          |                   |         |                  | ✓           |

**REGISTERED PRODUCT/ TRADE NAME:** Various human products on the market.

**PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:** Benzodiazepine

**PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:** The subcortical levels of the CNS are depressed by diazepam and other benzodiazepines thus producing the anxiolytic, sedative, skeletal muscle relaxant and anticonvulsant effects seen.

**INDICATIONS:** Anxiolytic, muscle relaxant, hypnotic, appetite stimulant and anticonvulsant.

### DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

#### DOGS:

For seizures: 2 mg/kg per rectum or 0.5-1 mg/kg IV  
As a preanaesthetic: 0.1 mg/kg IV slowly  
As a sedative: 0.2-0.6 mg/kg IV or 0.25 mg/kg PO tid

#### CATS:

As appetite stimulant: 0.05-0.15 mg/kg IV oid to every other day or 1 mg PO oid  
For urine marking and anxiety: 0.2-0.4 mg/kg PO oid-bid  
For treatment of seizure disorders: 0.25-0.5 mg/kg PO bid-tid

#### FERRETS:

For premedication/ sedation: 1-2 mg/kg IM

#### RABBITS/ RODENTS/ SMALL MAMMALS:

Rabbits: pre-anaesthetic: 2-10 mg/kg IM  
Hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats: 3-5 mg/kg IM  
Guinea pigs: 0.5-3 mg/kg IM

#### CATTLE:

Sedative in calves: 0.4 mg/kg IV  
As a tranquilizer: 0.55-1.1 mg/kg IM  
For CNS hyperactivity and seizures: 0.5-1.5 mg/kg IM or IV

#### HORSES:

For seizures: Foals: 0.05-0.4 mg/kg IV, repeat in 30 minutes if necessary. Adults: 25-50 mg IV, repeat in 30 minutes if necessary.  
As appetite stimulant: 0.02 mg/kg IV; immediately after dosing, offer food.

**SWINE:**

For tranquilization: 5.5 mg/kg IM

For CNS hypersensitivity and seizures: 0.5-1.5 mg/kg IM or IV

**SHEEP:**

As tranquilizer: 0.55-1.1 mg/kg IM

**WILDLIFE:**

1-2 mg/kg in feed to sedate before darting

**WARNINGS/ PRECAUTIONS/ CONTRA-INDICATIONS:**

- Contra-indicated in patients with hepatic impairment.

**REFERENCES:**

- Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook, Sixth Edition by Donald C. Plumb
- South African Electronic Package Inserts [www.home.intekom.com](http://www.home.intekom.com)
- MDR, Volume 44 2009
- The Veterinary Formulary, Sixth edition, Edited by Yolande Bishop