Diazepam is another name for this medication.

**How Is This Medication Useful?**
- Diazepam is used in animals as a sedative, for seizures, and to cause muscle relaxation. It is also used to cause bladder relaxation to allow urination. It has also been given as an antianxiety agent for behavior problems. Given as an injection, it has been used to stimulate appetite in cats.

**Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?**
- Cats may develop a fatal liver problem when given diazepam by mouth. It is not predictable which cats will have this reaction. If your cat already has liver problems, you should not give your cat diazepam orally.
- As diazepam is cleared from the body by the liver and kidneys, it should be used very carefully in pets with liver or kidney disease.
- The effects of sedation can be great with diazepam and it should be used cautiously in large or working animals whose safety or performance may be affected by sedation. Humans working around large animals sedated with diazepam should take care to avoid injury from animals who are unstable or may fall down.
- Diazepam has consistently caused birth defects and should only be used in pregnancy or nursing animals when this risk is acceptable.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

**What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?**
- The usual effects are drowsiness and sedation.
- Dogs will sometimes get usually excited from diazepam instead of becoming sedated.
- Horses may experience muscle trembling, weakness and may fall down after receiving higher doses of diazepam.
- Higher doses in any species can cause difficulty breathing.

**How Should It Be Given?**
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive this medication once or twice daily by mouth. If your veterinarian decides to use diazepam by mouth in your cat, you should watch the cat for any signs of the fatal liver problem that oral diazepam can cause. If your cat stops eating or acts depressed, you should stop giving the diazepam and notify your veterinarian immediately. Sometimes your veterinarian will prescribe a solution of diazepam that is inserted into the animal's rectum during a bad seizure. Make sure your veterinarian demonstrates this technique for you so that you will know how to do it if the need arises.
- **Horses:** Horses do not generally receive diazepam outside of the veterinary hospital. Diazepam is banned for use in racing or performance horses during and around show times.

**What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?**
- Diazepam should be protected from light and moisture and stored at room temperature. Diazepam solutions should not be stored in plastic and should not be mixed with any other drugs.
- Diazepam is a controlled substance and you will need to get a new prescription every 6 months if your pet is on long term therapy.
- You should not give diazepam to any other pets or household members.