Doxepin

Sinequan® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Doxepin is a tricyclic antidepressant medication that also has some antihistamine and drying effects. It is occasionally used for treating certain skin conditions in dogs where anxiety may play a role.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Doxepin should not be used in animals who have had prior sensitivity reactions to it or other drugs like it (tricyclics such as clomipramine or amitriptyline).
- It should also probably not be used in animals that have problems urinating, or that have glaucoma.
- Doxepin should not be used in animals who are also receiving drugs known as MAO inhibitors (Mitaban®, Dip, Preventic® Flea Collars, Anipryl®, and isoniazid are a few of these drugs). When doxepin is given with these drugs it can cause serious increases in blood pressure that can cause death. Aged cheese can also cause this effect, so make sure that your pets do not get into any aged cheese while on this drug. If your pet is receiving any of these medications, your veterinarian will ask you to stop giving them for at least 2-5 weeks before he prescribes doxepin.
- Working dogs (e.g., guide dogs, search dogs, hunting dogs, sled dogs, rescue dogs) may become overly sedated and unable to perform their duties while on this drug.
- Doxepin's safety during pregnancy has not been proven and it probably should not be given to nursing mothers.
- 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 most common side effects in dogs include sleepiness and lethargy (lacking energy), vomiting, and hyperexcitability. Most animals will become tolerant to these effects with time and the sleepiness should wear off.
- Dry mouth and difficulty with urinating are also possible side effects.
- Contact your veterinarian if side effects are severe or persist.

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. If you have difficulty giving any doses, please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. 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.
- 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.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any other medications or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats**: Dogs usually receive this drug orally two times daily as a liquid or capsules. Cats usually don't receive doxepin. Do not give your pet aged cheese or use tick collars while on this drug.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Doxepin should be stored in tight, light resistant containers at room temperature.
- Doxepin can be very toxic in overdose situations. Keep out of the reach of children and other animals in the household. Store in a childproof container.