Oxazepam

Serax® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Oxazepam is a drug similar to diazepam (Valium®), but is used in animals primarily as an appetite stimulant in cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Oxazepam should not be given to any animal that is allergic to it or drugs like it (e.g., diazepam/Valium®).
- As oxazepam is cleared from the body by the liver, it should be used carefully in animals with liver disease.
- Rarely, in humans this drug has caused a type of seizure, so it should be used with caution in animals with seizure disorders.
- Oxazepam safety in pregnancy or in nursing animals is not known.
- 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.
- Cats may develop incoordination and difficulty breathing at higher doses.

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**: Cats usually receive this medication twice daily by mouth. Dogs usually don't receive this medication.
- **Horses**: Horses do not generally receive oxazepam.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Oxazepam capsules or tablets should be stored at room temperature and protected from light and moisture.
- Because the usual dosage for a cat is 2 mg, and the smallest commercially available strength is 10 mg; your veterinarian may prescribe a dosage form that will be made by your pharmacist.
- Oxazepam 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 oxazepam to any other pets or household members.