



Veterinary Specialist Group

OXAZEPAM INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATS

Oxazepam (trade name Oxpam) is a derivative of valium (diazepam). Drugs of this family can be effective appetite stimulants, but oxazepam is usually more active orally than valium.

The intention is to provide appetite stimulation without causing sedation. However, in many cases we would not mind a slight sedative effect if the appetite stimulation was achieved. After all, what to cats do after a big meal; sleep!

We provide 10mg oxazepam tablets that are cut up into a large range of sizes from a quarter tablet at the largest to approximately a twentieth at the smallest.

The intention (as with all drugs) is to use the lowest possible dose that actually works. I suggest use of a fragment size that is at the middle of the range and work up (if there is no effect) or down (if there is too much sedation) from there.

If the drug results in sedation but not appetite stimulation then it is probably not going to work. However we sometimes advise adding a second drug (an antihistamine that we would provide) to get a synergistic effect.

The drug can be used every day if necessary, or just on days when appetite is poor.

The drug also has anti-anxiety effects which may show as a "blissed out" appearance, but do not be tempted to take it yourself!