Chlordiazepoxide
(klor-dye-az-e-pox-ide)

Description: Anti-anxiety Agent
Other Names for this Medication: Librium®
Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. Human: 5 mg, 10 mg, & 25 mg capsules. Compounded dosage forms may be available.

Key Information

- When using for thunderstorm phobias or other triggers (eg, separation anxiety) that upset your animal, try to give this medicine about an hour before the event or trigger.
- May be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving chlordiazepoxide on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- If you see yellowing of the whites of the eyes, gums, or skin, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Sleepiness is the most common side effect, but sometimes this medicine can cause the opposite behavior (ie, hyperactivity).
- This drug may increase appetite, especially in cats.

How is this medication useful?

Veterinarians may prescribe chlordiazepoxide to treat behavioral problems in dogs, such as phobias (fears). It can also be used in cats to treat aggression (threatening behavior and actions) between cats and for urine spraying. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.
- Other drugs can interact with chlordiazepoxide, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past. If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work. If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug. Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?
This medication should help your animal feel better within 1 to 2 hours. Your animal’s clinical signs should improve after that time. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?
No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal. This drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients:
- That are allergic to it or drugs like it (eg, diazepam, alprazolam).
This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in:
- Pregnant animals or animals that may become pregnant. Chlordiazepoxide and related drugs have caused problems in human infants born to mothers taking them; it is unknown if this effect occurs in animals.
- Animals with liver or kidney disease, or with narrow angle glaucoma.
- Animals in poor health or nutritional state; old animals.
- Aggressive animals; some veterinary behavior specialists are concerned that using this type of drug in aggressive animals may actually allow them to act out their aggressive tendencies more easily; this is controversial.
- Working or assistance dogs as this drug may reduce their awareness.
- Cats.
If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common but not serious side effects include:
- Sleepiness; lack of energy.
- Greater appetite, especially in cats.
- Cats: increased affection, depression, irritability, or unusual behaviors.
- This type of drug may affect the ability of the animal to learn and may slow training.
You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of the above signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Rare but usually not serious side effects include:
- Dogs may exhibit behaviors that are opposite from what would be expected (eg, become more excited instead of calmer). Report this effect to your veterinarian if it occurs.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:
- Yellowing of the whites of the eyes, gums, or skin; rarely, this type of drug has caused liver problems, especially in cats. If you see any of these effects, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Long-term regular use of this medication may cause physical dependence (addiction). If the drug is stopped too quickly, your animal may experience serious and uncomfortable withdrawal signs.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?
Overdoses of chlordiazepoxide are usually not serious, but significant depressive effects (eg, confusion, sleepiness, coma, slow to move) can occur. Rarely, other serious effects can occur especially if other sedating drugs are taken at the same time. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?
For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.
May be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.

Do not leave your animal alone after giving this medication for the first time. Watch for excessive sleepiness or aggression (ie, threatening behavior and actions) toward other animals in your household.

When using this drug for an expected trigger (eg, thunderstorm, separation anxiety), give this medicine to your animal about an hour before the trigger if possible to allow the drug to work best when the trigger occurs.

Compounded liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.

If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

If you want to stop giving the medication before the prescription is completed, first contact your veterinarian. There may be an important reason to continue giving the medication until it’s gone. If you are giving this drug to your animal on a regular basis, do not stop giving the medication without the guidance of your veterinarian as physical withdrawal effects could occur.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the regular time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature and protected from direct sunlight.

If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.

Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don’t use it all?

Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.

Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

Like all behavioral treatments, chlordiazepoxide usually works best in combination with behavior modification therapy.

Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

Products containing chlordiazepoxide are controlled prescription drugs in the US. It is against federal law to use, give away, or sell this medication to others than for whom it was prescribed.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.
Chlordiazepoxide with Clidinium Bromide
(klor-dye-az-e-pox-ide with kli-din-ee-um broe-mide)
**Description:** Antianxiety Agent; GI motility modifier (slows)
**Other Names for this Medication:** Librax®
**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** Chlordiazepoxide 5 mg with Clidinium Bromide 2.5 mg capsules. Compounded dosage forms may be available.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

**Key Information**
- Used to treat irritable bowel syndrome in dogs.
- This drug combination can be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- If you see yellowing of the whites of the eyes, skin, or gums have a yellowish tint (jaundice), contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Products containing chlordiazepoxide are controlled prescription drugs in the US. It is against federal law to use, give away, or sell this medication to anyone else.
- Sleepiness is the most common side effect, but sometimes the drug can cause behavior changes such as hyperactivity and irritability.

**How is this medication useful?**
When chlordiazepoxide (an antianxiety agent) is combined with clidinium (a medication that reduces secretions and slows down the gastrointestinal tract), it is used to treat diarrhea and cramping in dogs with irritable bowel syndrome. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug combination for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

**What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?**
Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.
Other drugs can interact with chlordiazepoxide or clidinium, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.

Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.

If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work.

If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.

Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication should help your animal feel better within 1 to 2 hours. Your animal’s clinical signs should improve after that time.

The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This combination drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients:

- That are allergic to it or drugs like it.
- With severe heart or intestinal problems.
- With a neurologic condition known as myasthenia gravis.
- With known gastrointestinal infections or obstructions.

This combination drug should be used WITH CAUTION in:

- Pregnant animals or animals that may become pregnant.
- Animals with liver or kidney disease, glaucoma, elevated thyroid hormone levels (hyperthyroidism), elevated blood pressure (hypertension), heart disease, enlarged prostate, or esophageal reflux.
- Animals with suspected gastrointestinal infections.
- Animals in poor health or nutritional state; very young or very old animals.
- Working dogs (eg, guide dogs, search dogs, hunting dogs, sled dogs, rescue dogs) may become sleepy and unable to perform their duties.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common but not serious side effects include:

- Sleepiness; lack of energy.
- Dry mouth and thirst, vomiting, problems swallowing, constipation, or urinary retention or hesitance.
- Training delays.
- Behavior changes such as hyperactivity or irritability (rare).

You don’t have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Yellowing of the whites of the eyes, skin or gums have a yellowish tint (jaundice). Rarely, this type of drug has caused liver problems, especially in cats.
- Reduced ability to exercise.
- Chemical dependence. Long-term regular use of this medication can cause physical dependence (addiction). If the drug is stopped too quickly, your animal may experience serious withdrawal symptoms.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if any of these effects occur.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of chlordiazepoxide with clidinium can be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

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How should this medication be given?
For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- May be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- Do not leave your animal alone after giving this medication for the first time. Watch for excessive sleepiness (sedation) or threatening behaviors toward other animals or people in your household.
- Compounded liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- If you want to stop giving the medication before the prescription is completed, first contact your veterinarian. There may be an important reason to continue giving the medication until it’s gone. If you are giving this drug on a regular daily basis to your animal, do not stop giving the medication without the guidance of your veterinarian, as your animal may experience drug withdrawal signs (eg, behavior changes, vomiting, seizures).

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?
If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the regular time between doses your veterinarian recommended before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?
- Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder (ie, pill minder) container at room temperature and protected from direct sunlight.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?
There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don’t use it all?
- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?
- Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.
- Products containing chlordiazepoxide are controlled prescription drugs in the US. It is against federal law to use, give away, or sell this medication to others than for whom it was prescribed.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.