



Diltiazem

Helps control heart rate and rhythm

Your vet has prescribed diltiazem for your pet. It slows the electrical signals through the heart and relaxes heart muscle, so the heart beats more slowly and fills better. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

What is it used for?

- Slowing a fast heart rate in some abnormal heart rhythms.
- Sometimes used in cats with thickened heart muscle.

How quickly does it work?

- It starts working within hours.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. Some tablets are slow release and must not be crushed.
- Try to give it at the same times each day.

What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.
- Don't stop this medicine suddenly unless your vet tells you to.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Tiredness or reduced appetite.
- Slow heartbeat or low blood pressure.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Heart rate checks and ECGs help your vet fine-tune the dose.

Important things to know

- Tell your vet if your pet is taking other heart medicines.
- Don't stop it suddenly unless your vet tells you to.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

Your questions answered

- **Can I crush it?** Not if it's slow release. Ask us for a better option if your pet won't take it whole.
- **Is it for life?** Often, yes, with regular reviews.

Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet faints, collapses or seems very weak.
- Your pet breathes fast or with effort at rest.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Resting breathing rate is a brilliant at-home heart check. Count the breaths while they sleep and note it down.