



# Cardiology Northwest

Part of Animal Care Group of Lake Oswego

Gary L. Wood, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology)

[www.heartvet.com](http://www.heartvet.com); [info@heartvet.com](mailto:info@heartvet.com)

3996 Douglas Way

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Phone: 503-246-9689

Fax: 503-636-2549

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“Collaboration for Compassionate Care through World-Class Medicine”

## DILTIAZEM HYDROCHLORIDE (CARDIZEM, DILACOR)

### Why has the doctor prescribed this medication?

Diltiazem is a calcium-channel blocking agent, which is used to decrease the heart rate and inhibit certain abnormal heart rhythms. Some forms of Diltiazem are long acting requiring one daily dose. Diltiazem HCl is usually given three times daily. Regular exams are needed to manage the use of this medication.

### How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by the doctor. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.**
- If three daily doses are directed it is preferred to be given eight hours apart, but six to 12 hours apart is ok.
- DO NOT give your pet more medication than directed.
- DO NOT give the medication more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.
- DO NOT stop giving this medication without first consulting with the doctor.

### What do I do if I miss giving a dose?

If it has been **at least** six hours give the dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give your pet two doses at once.

### Potential side effects

The most common side effect is slowing of the heart rate. Notify us or your regular veterinarian if your pet has symptoms of depression, vomiting, rash or low blood pressure. Other side effects may occur so if you notice anything unusual please contact us or your regular veterinarian.

### Possible drug interactions

- Make sure to tell us what other medication you are giving to your pet.
- The doctor may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, he may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with Diltiazem: Digoxin, Theophylline, Quinidine, Cimetidine, Atenolol, Ranitidine and Cyclosporine.
- Contact us if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.