KETAMINE

 Ketamine belongs to a class of drugs known as dissociative hypnotics and is similar to phencyclidine (PCP). It works by disrupting the central nervous system and induces a cataleptic state.

 Ketamine is a rapidly acting general [[rol||anesthetic|A drug that prevents sensations such as pain. Local or regional [anesthesia](http://www.petplace.com/dogs/what-is-anesthesia/page1.aspx) prevents pain in a limited area or in a specific body region. General anesthesia prevents pain and also causes unconsciousness and generalized muscle relaxation.]] that provides significant pain relief but does not provide relaxation of the muscles.

 After intramuscular injection, the effects of ketamine are seen within 10 minutes. The effects after intravenous injection are seen within 1 minute.

 For aggressive cats unable to be restrained for injection, ketamine can be sprayed into the mouth or eyes. It is readily absorbed from these surfaces and results in enough sedation to allow handling of the cat. It does not damage the mouth or eyes.

 Ketamine is approved for use in humans, cats and primates. It is widely used as an [extra-label drug](javascript:%20void(0);) in other companion animals.

 Due to its potential for abuse and misuse, ketamine is considered a [controlled substance](javascript:%20void(0);) in some states.

 Ketamine is a [prescription drug](javascript:%20void(0);) and can only be obtained from a veterinarian or by prescription from a veterinarian.