



Restful Paws

In Home Pet Hospice and Euthanasia

Information on Commonly Prescribed Medications

Please notify your veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns. Every patient responds differently to medications. Please notify your veterinarian if you think your pet is having any side effects to prescribed medications, is not responding to the medications, or is having new or worse problems. If your pet will not take the medication, please let us know and we will discuss other options. Medication doses (amount of drug) are based on the species (dog or cat), weight, and organ function (kidney or liver problems). Please do not use these medications for other pets without first consulting a veterinarian.

Rimadyl (generic=carprofen)

- Commonly dosed in 25mg, 75mg, 100mg chewable and non-chewable tablets
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)
- Most often prescribed for acute and chronic pain, especially osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease, bone cancer
- Common side effects: decreased appetite with stomach irritation
- Occasional side effects (please report to your veterinarian): decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dark or tarry stools, behavioral changes
- Rare side effects: increased water intake, increased urination, pale or yellow gums or skin, incoordination, seizures
- For dogs only. Do not use with dogs that have sensitive stomach/intestines, stomach ulcers, are not eating, major kidney or liver dysfunction, previously not tolerated NSAIDs well, known bleeding disorders (VW, prolonged clotting times)
- Do not use with Prednisone or other NSAIDs (e.g. Metacam, Previcox, piroxicam, Previcox, aspirin, Deramaxx). Ideally 4 to 7 days of “washout” time should be allowed between ending Prednisone or another NSAID and starting this medication
- Ask about use of stomach protectants, such as famotidine if you think your dog may have a sensitive stomach

Gabapentin

- Commonly dosed in 100mg, 300mg, 400mg capsules and other compounded doses
- Most often prescribed for chronic pain control in the dog or cat. Works best combined with other pain relievers such as NSAIDs, tramadol, and/or amantidine
- Generally well tolerated, but may cause sedation and/or incoordination – this is typically dose dependent
- Try using a low dose and increase as needed and directed. Dogs with advanced arthritis and muscle atrophy may have more trouble with coordination, walking, and standing, but this should go away as the dose wears off

Tramadol

- Commonly dosed in 50mg tablets and other compounded doses
- Most often prescribed for chronic pain control in the dog or cat. Works best combined with other pain relievers such as NSAIDS, gabapentin, and/or amantadine
- Generally well tolerated, but may cause sedation and/or incoordination
- Occasional to rare side effects include anxiety, agitation, tremor, decreased or loss of appetite, vomiting, constipation or diarrhea
- Try using a low dose and increase as needed and directed. Dogs with advanced arthritis and muscle atrophy may have more trouble with coordination, walking, standing, but this should go away as the dose wears off
- Tastes bitter, hide well in food. Pets may drool and foam if they taste the medication

Amantadine

- Commonly dosed in 100mg capsules or 10mg/ml and other compounded doses
- Most often prescribed for chronic pain control in the dog or cat. Works best combined with other pain relievers such as Rimadyl, gabapentin, and/or tramadol
- Do not give more than the prescribed dose
- Generally well tolerated, but may cause gastrointestinal effects (diarrhea, gas) or some agitation (both tend to resolve as the pet adjusts to the medication)
- Use with caution and decrease dose in patients with liver or kidney dysfunction, congestive heart failure, and seizure disorder.

Hydromorphone

- Most often prescribed for severe pain control in the dog or cat. Works best combined with other pain relievers such as NSAIDS, gabapentin, and/or amantadine
- Generally well tolerated, but may cause sedation, confusion, and/or incoordination
- Occasional to rare side effects include anxiety, agitation, tremor, decreased or loss of appetite, nausea/vomiting, constipation (may be severe), difficulty urinating, change in respiratory function (breathing changes)
- Try using a low dose and increase as needed and directed. Dogs with advanced arthritis and muscle atrophy may have more trouble with coordination, walking, standing, but this should go away as the dose wears off

Buprenorphine (Brand name Buprenex)

- Commonly dosed in 0.3mg/ml liquid or compounded doses
- Applied to the gums or under the tongue. NOT as effective when swallowed into the stomach. It needs to absorb through the gums
- Most often prescribed for pain control in the dog or cat. Works best combined with other pain relievers such as NSAIDS, gabapentin, and/or amantadine
- May decrease effectiveness of other similar, stronger pain medications such as morphine
- Generally well tolerated, but may cause sedation, confusion, and/or incoordination
- Occasional to rare side effects include anxiety, agitation, tremor, decreased or loss of appetite, nausea/vomiting, constipation, difficulty urinating, change in respiratory function (breathing changes), fever (mostly cats)

Prednisone or Prednisolone or Methylprednisolone

- Commonly dosed in 20mg, 40mg tablets and other compounded doses;
- Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory
- Most often prescribed for severe acute and chronic pain, especially for back disease and loss of function due to back/spine/vertebral disc problems (IVDD)

- Also commonly used as a chemotherapy drug to slow progression of certain cancers; for inflammatory diseases (allergies); and for immune-mediated diseases (lupus, IMHA, IMTP, etc).
- Common side effects (usually considered acceptable): Increased thirst and urination, increased appetite, mild behavior changes, panting, significant weight gain with long-term use
- Occasional side effects (please report to your veterinarian): decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dark or tarry stools, behavioral changes
- Rare side effects: Iatrogenic Cushing's disease (complex hormonal disease)
- Allow access to plenty of water and make sure your pet is able to urinate as often as necessary
- Do not use with dogs that have sensitive stomach/intestines, stomach ulcers, are not eating*, major kidney or liver dysfunction, previously not tolerated NSAIDs or steroids well
- Although it can worsen or cause stomach irritation, if the pet is not eating due to the disease, this medication will often stimulate appetite, but proceed with caution in pets that already have decreased to no appetite
- Do not use with NSAIDs (e.g. Rimadyl, Metacam, piroxicam, Previcox, aspirin, Deramaxx). Ideally 4 to 7 days of "washout" time should be allowed between ending an NSAID and starting this medication.
- Ask about use of stomach protectants, such as famotidine if you think your dog may have a sensitive stomach or your pet is on chemotherapy or immune disease doses
- **REQUIRES** tapering before stopping high doses or long-term doses. Suddenly stopping this medication can result in severe illness, especially when used at higher doses

Furosemide

- Commonly dosed in 12.5mg, 10mg, and 20mg tablets
- Most often prescribed to reduce pulmonary edema (fluid on the lungs) caused by congestive heart failure in the dog. Often combined with other medications such as an Ace Inhibitor (Enalapril or Benazepril) and/or Pimobendan
- Use with caution in patients with severe kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, and electrolyte imbalances
- Generally well tolerated, but expect increased thirst and urination. Allow access to plenty of water and make sure your pet is able to urinate as often as necessary
- Occasional to rare side effects include electrolyte disturbances, dehydration, hearing effects, weakness or restlessness, increased blood levels of "kidney" chemistry values

Cerenia (generic = maropitant)

- Commonly administered by injection, but multiple tablet concentrations are available
- Most often used as a potent anti-emetic (stops nausea and vomiting), also for abdominal pain relief
- Use with caution in patients with severe liver disease and potential gastrointestinal obstruction (any time you do not want to mask gastrointestinal signs)
- Generally well tolerated
- Rare side effects include loss of appetite and diarrhea

Pepcid (generic = famotidine), available over-the-counter

- Commonly dosed in 10mg and 20mg tablets
- Reduces stomach acid, soothes stomach, reduces irritation caused by some other medications
- Generally not recommended to use this medication long-term

Antibiotics (Clavamox, Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, Baytril, etc)

- Doses are not the same for all medications. Each medication has a different dose requirement based on your pet's weight
- Antibacterial antibiotics are most common, but antifungal and antiviral medications are included in this category
- Though generally well tolerated, many antibiotics are known to cause nausea, vomiting, loss of

appetite, stomach irritation, and diarrhea. If you note any of these symptoms happening or getting worse after an antibiotic, please inform a veterinarian. Many of these side effects decrease or go away after the first few doses

- Occasional to rare side effects include severe skin reaction, swelling/edema of face or other areas of skin, and eye or ear problems

Storing Medications

All medications, including controlled substances, should be placed up high and out of reach from children and family pets. It is recommended that only the primary caregiver know where controlled substances are held and only they administer them to the pet in hospice. If other assistance is needed to medicate, the primary caregiver should closely instruct another how to safely handle the medications. If necessary, certain medications will need to be placed in a dark area to prevent sunlight damage to the drug. Refrigerated medications will need to be kept cold and all medication expiration dates should be closely monitored. If medication administration calls for the use of needles and syringes, they should be disposed of in sealable plastic containers and turned in regularly to Restful Paws for disposal.

Comments
