

MEDICATION INFORMATION

Pain medications - General information: Given as needed; you will likely not use all of the medication provided. Some pets need only 1 or 2 doses, while others may need 3-5 days of pain medications. A painful pet will sleep more and be less engaged with the family. A pet who is usually with you may go off by itself, while a normally independent pet may act "clingy". If your pet is acting 80% of its normal self or better, it likely does not need continued pain medications.

- **Buprenorphine:** An opiate pain reliever in a 0.3mg/ml liquid, given every 8-12 hours. It must be squirted into the cheek pouch or under the tongue, not swallowed. Dilated pupils, sleepiness and displays of affection are the most common side effects, but a small number of patients become "hypervigilant" (pacing, not settling down). If your pet displays those signs, wait a longer period of time before giving another dose or discontinue the medication altogether.
- **Gabapentin:** A neuropathic analgesic given orally every 8-12 hours. The most common side effects are low energy/sedation and loss of coordination. The compounded liquid formulation (100mg/ml) must be shaken well prior to administration. Capsules may be opened and the contents mixed with food.
- **Tramadol:** A synthetic opioid receptor agonist that also inhibits reuptake of serotonin and norepinephrine, tramadol is a DEA schedule IV controlled drug. It is given orally every 8-12 hours for pain. It should be avoided in pets who are receiving other medications that inhibit serotonin reuptake (e.g. fluoxetine, mirtazepine, trazodone) and should be used in reduced doses in pets receiving SAME or amitriptyline. Common side effects are sedation or dizziness; agitation occurs in some pets. It has an extremely unpleasant taste and should not be crushed and mixed with food.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for pain: The most common side effects of all NSAIDs are mild GI effects (vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, inappetence) and lethargy. Extremely rare side effects include neurologic problems (seizures, disorientation, aggression), hematologic disorders (immune-mediated hemolytic anemia or thrombocytopenia), skin-related (itchiness, hair loss, moist dermatitis, hives), GI ulceration, and toxicity to the liver or kidneys. Please **stop** administration and **call us** if your pet exhibits any of the following: eating less than normal, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, seizures, aggression, weakness, incoordination, yellowing of the gums, or increased drinking and/or urination. Should not be given to pets with severe liver or kidney disease, GI ulcers, or receiving systemic steroids.

- **Robenacoxib (Onsior):** A coxib-class NSAID which specifically inhibits the COX-2 enzyme, this drug is given every 24 hours. It is available in tablets of 6mg, 10mg, 20mg and 40mg. Pregnant women near full-term should wear gloves when handling Onsior.

Antibiotics: If you miss a dose and it is ≥ 8 hours until the next dose is due, administer the missed dose as soon as you remember. Because any antibiotic can change the balance of bacteria in the GI tract, consider giving probiotics (e.g. ProViable, Fortiflora) once daily while your pet is receiving antibiotics. Probiotics should be given > 1 hour before or 2-3 hrs after antibiotics.

- **Clindamycin:** A lincosamide antibiotic, used to treat infections of bone, teeth and skin. Available in liquid (25mg/ml), tablets (25mg, 75mg, 150mg) or capsules (25mg, 75mg, 150mg, 300mg). Given orally twice daily (every 12 hrs). Best to give with food. Has a bitter taste, so hide it in a soft treat like a Pill Pocket, peanut butter, cream cheese, or liverwurst. May cause drooling due to the bitter taste. Common side effects are vomiting and diarrhea, which usually resolve after the first few doses. Complete loss of appetite, trouble swallowing, and/or bloody diarrhea are indications to stop the medication and call us.
- **Amoxicillin-clavulanate:** A potentiated aminopenicillin antibiotic, used to treat infections of skin, respiratory tract, urinary tract and oral cavity. Available in liquid (45.7mg/ml, 62.5mg/ml or 97.5mg/ml) or tablets (62.5mg, 125mg, 250mg, 375mg). Best to give with food to minimize potential for GI side effects (vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite). A complete course (5 to 14 days, depending on your pet's specific prescription) should be given.
- **Cephalexin:** A cephalosporin antibiotic, used to treat infections of skin, respiratory tract, urinary tract and occasionally oral cavity. Available in capsules of 250mg, 500mg, 750mg or chewable tablets of 75mg, 150mg, 300mg, 600mg. The most common side effects are decreased appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea - possibly prevented if the medication is given with food. Fever, rash, or trouble breathing are extremely rare side effects which would indicate an allergic reaction - you should seek emergency veterinary care if these occur. Cephalosporin antibiotics have an odor that resembles cat urine; this is normal.

Note: If your pet vomits after receiving a medication on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food. If vomiting continues or occurs with diarrhea, stop giving the medication(s) and contact us.

Do not dispose of medications in the toilet. 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 animals and children and unrecognizable to people who might go through trash), and place it in the trash.

I acknowledge that these instructions have been reviewed with me and that I was given a copy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____