

NSAIDs

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) provide pain control for dogs and cats by reducing inflammation that leads to pain. NSAIDs offer great pain control and are commonly used in conjunction with other pain medications (such as Tramadol or Fentanyl). Commonly used NSAIDs are: Rimadyl (Carprofen), Etogesic (Etoodolec), Deramaxx (Deracoxib), Previcox (firocoxib), Metacam (Meloxicam).

It is extremely important that you are aware of potential side effects when administering these drugs to your dog or cat. All NSAIDs should be used with caution, because they all have the potential for serious side effects, especially gastrointestinal bleeding, ulcers, or even gastrointestinal perforations, even in rare cases kidney damage and liver problems. Side effects have been reported to be most common if NSAIDs are overdosed or used in conjunction with other medications that increase the likelihood of side effects. Therefore, please follow the instructions below carefully:

- Please follow the dosing instructions carefully – **DO NOT USE A HIGHER DOSE IF YOU THINK YOUR PET IS STILL PAINFUL!**
- Please refrain from using any human pain medications for your pet since these medications can cause life-threatening side effects in animals (especially Ibuprofen, Tylenol [Acetaminophen] and Aspirin).
- Please make sure that your pet did not receive any other drug in the NSAID class during the last week. These drugs include (please ask us if a drug that you have given is not included in this list): Deramaxx, Rimadyl, Metacam, EtoGesic, Piroxicam, Aspirin and Ketoprofen
- Please make sure that your pet did not receive any steroids (prednisone, dexamethasone) during the last week.

When administering an NSAID, you should watch for these side effects:

- Decrease in appetite (most animals will have a decreased appetite after surgery, however, you should observe a continuously increased appetite during the first few days after surgery)
- Vomiting (any vomiting is abnormal unless discussed with your doctor, please contact us immediately if your animal vomits more than once after discharge)
- Change in bowel movements (such as diarrhea, or black, tarry, or bloody stools – it is common for animals not to defecate for 3-5 days after surgery because the anesthetic drugs slow down the motility of the GI-tract)
- Change in behavior (such as decreased or increased activity level, decreased appetite, decreased attitude, incoordination)
- Yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (jaundice)
- Change in drinking habits (significantly increased frequency or amount consumed)

If you notice any of these possible side effects, stop the medication and contact your regular veterinarian or AESC immediately. The best way to avoid the possibility of your animal suffering serious side effects from NSAIDs is for you to be fully informed about the drug and its potential side effects. Please ask your doctor if you have any further questions. What starts out as a minor problem can readily progress to an emergency, so please contact us immediately at 720-842-5050 if you have any concerns!