



cat adoption team

14175 SW GALBREATH DRIVE, SHERWOOD, OR 97140 * 503-925-8903

Post-Operative Pain Medication Information

What do I need to know about post-operative pain medications?

- ✓ Make sure you understand how much of the drug to give, how frequently, and for how long. If you are unsure, ask your veterinarian.
- ✓ Always give the medication with or after food. Your vet may suggest feeding canned rather than dry food to help encourage good fluid intake, as maintaining fluid intake is important.
- ✓ If your cat does not eat, DO NOT give the medication. Contact your veterinarian.
- ✓ Never give your cat any other medication at the same time without first speaking to your veterinarian.
- ✓ If at any stage you have concerns, or see any potential adverse effects, STOP giving the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately.

A painkiller called meloxicam, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (or NSAID), has been prescribed for your cat. These drugs are commonly used in humans and animals to help relieve pain, fever, and inflammation. Controlling your cat's pain is crucial for its welfare. Signs of pain in your cat may include decreased activity, decreased mobility, decreased grooming, loss of appetite, and/or altered personality. Meloxicam's anti-inflammatory properties make it a good choice for post-operative pain, but it has not been shown to be safe in young kittens.

Are NSAIDs safe in cats?

NSAIDs play a vital role in therapy for many cats, but differences between cats and other animals mean you should only ever use a drug that has been specifically prescribed for your cat by your veterinarian. Many human drugs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen can be highly toxic to cats – administering these is life-threatening. Adverse effects can be seen with NSAIDs, just as with all drugs. Some patients may be at increased risk of adverse effects (e.g. older cats and cats with certain other diseases).

What adverse effects should I look out for?

Licensed NSAIDs have been shown to be safe for use in cats. However, adverse effects can still occur. Most are mild, but some can be serious – as in other species they may involve the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, cardiovascular system, or liver. Adverse effects may lead to a number of signs including: loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting, lethargy and dullness/depression, altered thirst and/or urination, diarrhea and/or black-colored feces, and yellowing of the skin, gums, or whites of the eyes.

A painkiller called buprenorphine has been prescribed for your cat. Buprenorphine is an opiate analgesic often used for short-term pain relief. It should be administered by squirting under the tongue or in the cheek pouch for the best effect. The doses are very small for this potent drug, so be sure that you are giving the exact amount your veterinarian has prescribed. Sedation is the most common side effect, so make sure your cat is confined to a place s/he can't get hurt by jumping on/off objects when you're not around.

Safety first: If you are in any doubt, STOP the medication and TALK to your veterinarian