

Your Pet's Anti-Inflammatory Medications

We've prescribed a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication for your pet, and you need to know about the benefits and risks of these drugs. NSAIDs are very effective drugs for reducing pain, swelling and inflammation, and today's NSAIDs are safer than they've ever been. That said, the use of any medication carries some risk. The very mechanisms that make the drugs work so well against inflammation can also produce unwanted side effects. For the majority of our patients, the benefits far outweigh the risks...but that doesn't mean the risks should be ignored.

Benefits of NSAIDs:

- Less pain
- Faster return to normal activity levels
- Shorter recovery times
- Reduced risk of complications from swelling, inflammation and pain

Risks of NSAIDs:

- Stomach or intestinal pain or damage (such as ulcers)
- Liver damage
- Kidney damage

As with any NSAID you may take for your own pain, there are potential risks of NSAID use for your pet's condition. And as with NSAIDs you take, higher doses and/or long-term use can increase these risks.



What you can do:

- Follow the prescription orders closely, including how often it should be given, how much should be given, and how it should be given (with food, without food, etc.).
- If you get the NSAID from a pharmacy, do not allow the pharmacy to make any changes to the prescription without consulting us.
- Do not give your pet any medications, including over the counter products, without asking us.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's condition or the prescription, do not hesitate to contact us. Contact us immediately if you observe any of the following problems:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea, visible blood in stool, or dark, tar-colored stool
 - Changes in your pet's frequency or amount of urination
 - Loss of appetite
 - Depression/lethargy
 - Worsening of your pet's problem

