



Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) have provided pain control for many pets and offer significant benefits. Commonly used NSAIDs in veterinary medicine include Rimadyl (carprofen), Metacam (meloxicam), Deramaxx (deracoxib), Etogesic (etodolac) and aspirin. It is important that you are aware of potential side effects when administering drugs to your pet. All NSAIDs should be used with caution, because they all have the potential for serious side effects, especially gastrointestinal bleeding, ulcers, perforations, even in rare cases kidney damage and liver problems.

The best way to avoid the possibility of your pet suffering serious side effects from NSAIDs is for you to be fully informed about the drug and its potential side effects.

When administering an NSAID, you should watch for these side effects and contact us immediately if you have any concerns:

- Decrease or increase in appetite
- Vomiting
- Change in bowel movements (such as diarrhea, or black, tarry, or bloody stools)
- Change in behavior (such as decreased or increased activity level, incoordination, seizure or aggression)
- Yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (jaundice)
- Change in drinking habits (frequency, amount consumed)
- Change in urination habits (frequency, color, or smell)
- Change in skin (redness, scabs, or scratching)

If you would like more specific information about the particular drug your pet is on, please ask our staff and we will provide it.

If your pet is going to need NSAIDs on a long-term basis for management of chronic pain, the doctors at our clinic will require bloodwork at certain intervals (depending upon the individual case) to monitor organs for signs of adverse reactions. We will also usually recommend bloodwork when first starting the drug in order to have a baseline on which to judge future changes in lab values.