



NSAID's

(Non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs)

Following surgery, your pet will need enforced inactivity for a period of several weeks. Strict exercise restriction means: no running, no jumping, no on and off furniture, no up and down stairs. If you have other animals in the house, or children that play with or come in contact with your injured pet, please keep them separated unless you can fully supervise all interaction. Activity must be limited to very short leash walks for the purpose of your pet going to the bathroom only. Your pet should be kept in an enclosed area such as a small yard, dog run, or a small room in the house preferably with solid footing to prevent slipping.

Your pet has been sent home with an anti-inflammatory drug. These medications are all aspirin like drugs from a group that include Deramaxx, Rimadyl, Etogesic, Advil, Zubrin, Prevacoxib, and Metacam. These primarily eliminate pain and discomfort and the cycle of inflammation and irritation associated with surgery, injury or degenerative processes (arthritis). As such, NSAID therapy is an important adjunct treatment during the post-operative period. These drugs also have an important place with conservative management for many orthopedic conditions.

With the recent FDA withdrawal of Vioxx there has been a great deal of attention given to many of the NSAID medications, most of this attention points to negative reactions. It is important to keep in mind that all medications, including NSAID's can have side effects, and, that for every bad reaction to the drug, there are many thousands of doses administered without any side effects!

Since the goal of NSAID treatment is to maximize benefit, and to reduce side effects, we would like to help you identify a list of signs that you could see at home to determine if your pet is having an adverse reaction: Pet's with an adverse reaction to NSAID treatment may have a decreased appetite, episodes of vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, increased water consumption or stool color change (dark, tarry). This list is not exhaustive, and other less common symptoms may be seen. If you have any questions regarding adverse reactions, please do not hesitate to contact us with your concerns.

Please keep in mind, an overwhelming majority of dogs do well and tolerate these drugs without any of these side effects. However, if your pet is one of those that do manifest any of the above symptoms, please discontinue administration of the medication, and contact us immediately.

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