

Levetiracetam Extended-Release Tablets (*Keppra XR*[®])

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SUMMARY:

- 1) Levetiracetam is generally a safe and well tolerated medication. It can cause mild sedation and ataxia.
- 2) Monitor your dog's feces when starting this medication as some dogs cannot digest certain versions of the generic pills.
- 3) Never stop or change seizure medication without first speaking with a veterinarian.

EXPLANATION:

Levetiracetam is an anticonvulsant or seizure medication. The goal of this medication is to make your pet's seizure less frequent and less severe. It is unlikely that any seizure medication will make your pet 100% seizure free.

It is very important to give this medication on schedule. Make a note of when you need refills, and try to get them at least one week in advance. Set a timer on your watch or phone to help remind you to give the medication on schedule.

This medication is usually given twice a day and may be given with or without food.

MONITORING:

We recommend visits twice a year to discuss how your pet is doing. At these visits your vet may want to check blood work.

In all pets on this medication we recommend yearly general blood work (called a CBC and Chemistry) and a urinalysis. Depending on your pet's seizure control drug levels may also be recommended once to twice a year, as well as after dose changes.

SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication seems to be very well tolerated overall. The following side effects have been reported.

- 1) GI side effects including inappetence, vomiting and diarrhea
- 2) Some pets will act sleepy or drunk while their body adjusts to the medication. It can take two weeks for some pets to adjust. If your pet is especially incoordinated, keep them away from things like swimming pools and staircases until they are more sure on their feet.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- 1) You may notice what appear to be intact pills in your dog's feces. Don't worry! Your pet has absorbed the important parts of medication and this is just the shell. The medication is still working. If you are concerned about this, we can run a blood level to prove the medication is being absorbed.

