



Pre-Visit Pharmaceuticals

Here at Cherry Hill Animal Hospital, we care greatly about your pet's wellbeing. While we are trying to keep your pet healthy medically, we are constantly assessing your pet for signs of fear, anxiety and stress.

If your dog or cat displayed fearful, anxious or stressed behavior during veterinary visits, then your veterinarian may have recommended a pre-visit pharmaceutical or PVP.

Pre-visits pharmaceuticals are medications which can help the veterinary visit be more enjoyable and less stressful for your pet.

The two most commonly prescribed PVP's are Gabapentin and Trazodone.

Although used "off label" Gabapentin and Trazodone have been documented, studied and practiced in veterinary behavior medicine for years and are considered safe for use in cats and dogs.

These drugs are not used in order to "drug" or sedate your pet, instead are used to help alleviate fear, anxiety and stress, which may be interfering with effective treatment. These medications are considered "quick" acting and once given, will take two hours to see the full effect. For most animals the medication is out of their system in eight to 12 hours.

Your veterinarian may ask you to do a trial run at home and report back with the effects of the medication on your individual pet. You may notice your pet exhibiting more calm behaviors such as not barking as much, being more affectionate or resting calmly.

Please let your veterinarian know if your pet is experiencing any of the following side effects; increased lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, changes in appetite or changes in behavior such as increased aggression or excitement.

Your friendly veterinarian team can help you guide your pet to happier vet visits by recommending how you can implement training, behavioral and environmental modifications so they can receive lifelong care without concern.