

Trazodone

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SUMMARY:

- 1) This medication is commonly used for anxiety and sedation for animals
- 2) If your pet is excessively sedate, unexpectedly hyperactive, has vomiting/diarrhea or neurologic symptoms discontinue the medication and seek veterinary advice.

EXPLANATION:

Trazadone is an antidepressant that is commonly used for anxiety treatment and sedation. It is often prescribed for animals who need to be kept quiet after an injury or surgery.

Side Effects:

- 1) Some pets will be sleepy or have difficulty walking on this medication. If this is excessive, please discontinue this medication until you can speak to a veterinarian
- 2) Undesirable behavior changes: Some pets can become very agitated or hyperactive on this medication. They can frantically whine and pant. This is especially common on high doses or when this medication is combined with other medications like sedatives or pain medications. It can look very similar to pain and can be very confusing. Sometimes we have to experiment with reduced doses or timing of medications to prevent this. If you believe your pet is experiencing this, contact your veterinarian for guidance.
- 3) Some pets experience an increase in appetite while on this medication.
- 4) While unlikely, there is a possibility that this medication can cause serotonin syndrome when combined with drugs like Tramadol. Clinically these two medications are often used together safely. However, owners should be vigilant for GI upset (vomiting, diarrhea) and neurologic disturbances (seizures, dilated pupils, disorientation, difficulty walking, drooling, coma, death). If symptoms are mild please discontinue the medication until you can speak to a veterinarian. If symptoms are severe please seek urgent veterinary attention.

****This medication should be kept well out of reach of children and pets.****

