

Tramadol - Main

Tramadol - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Tramadol - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Tramadol is used to relieve moderate to moderately severe pain associated with surgery and chronic pain in certain species. Tramadol is available as a tablet and as an injectable solution in certain countries.

Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Tramadol is a controlled substance in certain states. Tramadol is a controlled drug in AR and KY and must be reported to ND, OH, WY and MS. This is a medication that has the potential for abuse. These medications can assist in providing appropriate patient care but also require a valid veterinary client-patient relationship and a veterinary prescription. Further legislation regarding storage, prescription, dispensing, and record keeping have been put in place to prevent drug abuse.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An analgesic or pain medication

A synthetic or mu-opioid receptor agonist and increases serotonin and norepinephrine

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To provide analgesia for moderately painful conditions

There is conflicting data regarding efficacy as an oral analgesic in dogs

May be prescribed as an alternative to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) or in addition to an NSAID

Likely most useful when used in combination with other analgesic drugs

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Some formulations of Tramadol are combined with acetaminophen and should not be used in cats

This medication should be used with caution in animals with head injuries, previous seizures, or infections of the central nervous system

This medication should be used with caution in animals with chronic respiratory disease (i.e. asthma)

This medication may require dose adjustments in animals with underlying liver or kidney disease

Caution should be used in animals that may have an intestinal obstruction as this medication can cause reduced gastric motility

This medication should be used with caution in geriatric or debilitated animals

Use with caution in working dogs (military/police/seeing eye/hearing, etc.) as too much sedation may impede their ability to work and learn

Safe use of Tramadol in breeding, pregnant or nursing animals has not been established

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this drug, other opioids or narcotics should not take this medication

DIRECTIONS:

Do not use Tramadol combination products containing acetaminophen (Ultracet®) on cats.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian.

If your pet is on this medication long-term (several weeks), do not abruptly stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Your pet will experience unpleasant withdrawal symptoms if the dose is not tapered down slowly.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically. It is not uncommon to require dose adjustments if pain levels escalate.

Tramadol may be given with or without food. This medication is extremely bitter and may require hiding in treats or food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat. If digestive upset continues, contact your veterinarian.

Ensure your pet has plenty of fresh drinking water.

With oral administration, this medication often requires frequent administration because of low oral bioavailability. If using sustained or extended release products, do not crush or break the tablets or capsules.

Do not give this medication with any other over the counter medications that are used for treating pain without consulting your veterinarian.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

What are the clinical signs of pain or discomfort to monitor in your pet

When will your pet need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Do not confuse Tramadol with Trazodone.

Due to potential for human abuse, Tramadol should be stored in a locked cabinet.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Do not use Tramadol combination products containing acetaminophen (Ultracet®) on cats.

This medication can result in sedation as well as reduce respiratory function

This medication can affect the central nervous system resulting in behavior changes such as anxiety, restlessness, disorientation, dysphoria, tremors and dilated pupils

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, defecation and constipation

If you see any of these symptoms or any behavior changes or notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Tramadol in conjunction with: amiodarone, anticholinergic agents (atropine, glycopyrrolate), antidepressants (mirtazapine, trazodone), antihistamines (diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine, promethazine),azole antifungals (fluconazole, ketoconazole), benzodiazepines (alprazolam, diazepam), cimetidine, central nervous system depressants (dexmedetomidine, gabapentin, levetiracetam, methocarbamol), cyprohepatine, digoxin, erythromycin, iohexol, ketamine, lithium, monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (amitraz, selegiline), metoclopramide, mitotane, ondansetron, opioid analgesics (buprenorphine, butorphanol, methadone), phenobarbital, quinidine, rifampin, s-adenosylmethionine, sevoflurane, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) antidepressants (fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline), terbinafine, tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine), warfarin and yohimbine

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Tramadol

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

Tramadol is medication that can potentially be abused by humans, it should not be given to anyone. As with all prescribed medication, Tramadol should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about Tramadol. If you have any questions or concerns about Tramadol or the condition it was prescribed for, contact your veterinarian.