

Using NSAIDS to treat pain in your dog

(Rimadyl, Metacam, Deramaxx etc)

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Pain Medications offer pain relief and improved quality of life to many dogs. NSAIDS can be used daily for arthritis (with appropriate monitoring blood work) or short term after an injury or surgical procedure.

Never give aspirin or corticosteroids while giving an NSAID. In dogs with liver, kidney, heart or intentional problems, the dose may be decreased or the medication discontinued. Especially in older animals, blood work is strongly recommended prior to long-term dosing. Please contact your veterinarian before increasing dose or frequency of the meds.

If you suspect a possible side effect, **STOP** giving the medication and call immediately. Most side effects are mild, but some can be serious. Common side effects may affect the kidneys, liver and GI tract and may include:

- Eating less or not eating
- Lethargy or behavior changes
- Diarrhea or darker stool
- Yellowing of gums, whites of eyes
- Changes in drinking
- Skin redness, scabs or itching

Call if you have any questions or concerns.