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Metacam (Meloxicam) Use in Cats

Description:

Metacam (meloxicam) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used to reduce pain, fever and inflammation in cats. It comes as a convenient liquid to be given orally for the control of painful or inflammatory conditions. Injectable Metacam is a NSAID approved for use in cats which contains the following information on its label: *All cats should undergo a thorough history and physical examination before initiation of NSAID therapy. Appropriate laboratory tests to establish baseline blood values prior to, and periodically during, the use of any NSAID are strongly recommended.*

Why does my cat need a physical exam and blood work prior to beginning NSAID therapy?

It is important for your veterinarian to understand your pet's current organ function to decide if NSAIDs will be a good choice for your pet's pain control. NSAIDs are metabolized by your cat's liver and kidneys, by checking the blood enzymes produced by these organs, your veterinarian can assess your pet's risks of taking this type of medication. Be sure to tell your veterinarian your pet's current symptoms and current medications, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, herbal supplements and flea control products. Giving NSAIDs and other medications together could harm your pet.

What are the possible side effects my cat may experience while taking a NSAID drug?

NSAIDs are safe and generally tolerated medications, but, like other drugs, may cause some side effects. When administering an NSAID, you should watch side effects. The most common side effects include changes in appetite or vomiting. If you think your cat is experiencing a side effect as a result of taking an NSAID, please discontinue giving the medication and call your veterinarian. For a complete list of all possible side effects of NSAIDS please see the product insert, ask your veterinarian or visit www.metacam.us.

To ensure that your pet is tolerating an NSAID well, your veterinarian may advise having blood work repeated 2-4 weeks after starting therapy. This blood work can be performed earlier if your cat is experiencing adverse side effects.

NSAIDs prescribed for one pet in the household should NOT be shared with other pets. Some NSAIDs can be toxic to cats or other dogs with underlying medical conditions. Please contact your veterinarian before giving any medication to your pet.