

Anti-inflammatory Medication (NSAID's) and Your Pet

What is anti-inflammatory medication?

Also known as Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), these drugs act as pain killers and reduce swelling and inflammation. They can also control a high temperature. They are usually prescribed to control pain in long-term conditions like arthritis, or to help recovery



Drug Safety

- Most animals do not experience any problems even after taking this medication for a long time. However, they are potent drugs, with potentially serious side effects if used in the wrong way.
- Always give doses with food, or just after a meal.
- Stop dosing your pet if he/she is vomiting, has diarrhoea, stops drinking normally for any reason, or you suspect dehydration. Telephone the surgery for advice.
- Some medications are produced in a 'palatable' format, designed to be tasty to your pet. Do NOT allow your pet access to tablet containers, as they may eat a large number of tablets and cause a toxic overdose.
- These medicines may not be safe to use if your pet already has liver or kidney disease.



- Other types of treatment can help to reduce the dose of NSAIDs needed by your pet, reducing the risk of side effects. Essential Fatty Acids, such as those found in Cod Liver Oil or Evening Primrose Oil, Glucosamine/Chondroitin combinations, physiotherapy and weight loss can all be

Monitoring your pet

We recommend screening for liver and kidney disease before starting treatment. Initially, your vet may want to re-examine your pet frequently to assess the effectiveness of treatment. Once the vet is satisfied with your pet's progress, check-ups may become less frequent.

We recommend that liver and kidney screening is performed once a year for animals on long-term medication. This ensures that these organs are remaining healthy and coping well with the medication.

NSAIDs should not be used if there are ulcers or bleeding from the stomach or bowels. If you see blood in your pet's vomit or faeces, stop dosing and seek advice from your vet immediately.

Dispensing Advice

- Your pet may be taking this medication for a long period of time. At Riverside, we consider it very important that your pet is monitored regularly, both to make sure the medication is still effective, and to make sure it is causing no harm.
- We will need to examine your pet at least every six months in order to dispense ongoing medication. There are strict guidelines regarding prescription medication issued by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to which we must adhere.
- Please try to give us 24 hours notice if you need further medication. Every prescription needs to be checked by a vet before you are able to collect them. In most cases, we can dispense medication on the same day, but some medicines may need to be ordered in for you.
- We are able to prescribe up to two months worth of medication at one time. This applies both to medication purchased from Riverside, or when using our prescription to buy drugs elsewhere.
- Every prescription includes a small fee called the Medicines Advice Fee. This covers the time and knowledge that goes into preparing your pet's medication, and reflects the fact that we at Riverside are responsible for the health and well-being of your pet throughout treatment. This fee is applicable both to medicine purchased at Riverside, or when using our prescription to buy drugs elsewhere.



ActivePet Clinics

- Would you like to attend our ActivePet Clinics? These provide a more in-depth look at your pet's mobility, with a detailed examination of joints by the vet.
- We focus on improving your pet's quality of life by using not only pain relief, but also a balanced approach to lifestyle, weight control, exercise and dietary supplements.
- Help your pet get the maximum benefit from their medication, or even reduce the dose of pain-killers needed.
- Access to physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and acupuncture if needed.