

# Pain Medication

It is important that owners have a basic understanding of the various pain medications that can be administered to your dog. There are three different types of pain medication that can be utilised:

- NSAIDS (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories)
- Opioids
- Steroids

Some commonly used medications that you may come across include: Aspirin, Carprofen, Metacam, Rimadyl, Tramadol and Gabapentin. These medications can be for short or long term use in the dog; however there are some side effects and long term effects that owners should be aware of including:

- Digestive Upsets
- Lack of Appetite
- Depression
- Stomach / Intestinal Ulcers
- Liver and Kidney Failure.



If any of these side effects present in your dog then you must take them to your vet immediately.

Pain relief is administered by your veterinarian for a reason and so **DO NOT** stop any pain medication unless advised to by your vet. Also if you have unexplained pain in your dog then **DO NOT** self-prescribe medication as this can affect a vet's assessment of the individual case. In the case where you believe that your dog may be in pain then do not be afraid to ask your veterinarian for pain relief and always fully discuss and understand your pain management techniques post operatively when you are bringing your dog home.