

FELINE VETERINARIAN BOOTCAMP FOR NEW GRADUATES

Go-home Plan for a Blocked Cat

What does a blocked cat need following discharge:

- Pain medications
- Anti-inflammatory (this is usually an inflammatory condition, so we have to continue treating that – it doesn't go away overnight)
- Something for anxiety
- Arm the client with knowledge about appropriate litter box care to help this potentially not happen again (goes into the environmental stress management as well)

So, what's the actual protocol?

- Zorbium – dosed appropriately for weight according to insert (2 tube sizes available)
 - o Can alternatively use buccal buprenorphine, but we do not actually have evidence that this works as well in cats
 - o Warn caregivers that their cat will be drunk for 4 days...but they're not in pain (which is the goal)
- NSAID
 - o This can be whatever you have, but remember that orally medicating a cat several times daily is less than ideal, especially if you're trying to limit stress
 - o Options:
 - Onsior 2 mg/kg (give injection in hospital followed by oral formulation once daily at home)
 - Meloxicam (if renal values are okay at time of discharge, consider giving a 3-day dose of 0.3 mg/kg SQ instead of sending home an oral formulation)
- Gabapentin
 - o Use this mostly for anxiolytic affects (100 mg/cat BID for most cats – 20-30 mg/kg if you need to calculate it; reduce dose by 30% if the cat has renal compromise); may have some pain control affect if bladder pain is neuropathic in origin, but this is not yet proven
 - o Warn caregivers about sedation
- +/- Alprazolam 0.125 mg/cat q8h
 - o Some evidence supports that this medication helps to relax the urethra
 - o Lots of evidence for use as an anxiolytic
 - o Consider using this in hospital if the cat is super stressed despite gabapentin; can send home PRN based on how the cat is doing at time of discharge

What NOT to use:

- Prazosin
 - o Recent evidence suggests this only works in the ureters and not on the urethra

- One paper concluded that blocked cats given prazosin were more likely to re-obstruct (Conway, et al. *Prazosin administration increases the rate of urethral obstruction in cats: 388 cases*. JAVMA 2022).