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Disclosure


Isabella Bean has no relationships with ineligible companies.

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Learning Objectives

- 

DESCRIBE THE TYPES OF ANIMALS AND HEALTH PROBLEMS MOST LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES
- 

LIST THE MOST COMMON PRESCRIPTIONS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS AND KEY DISPENSING CONSIDERATIONS
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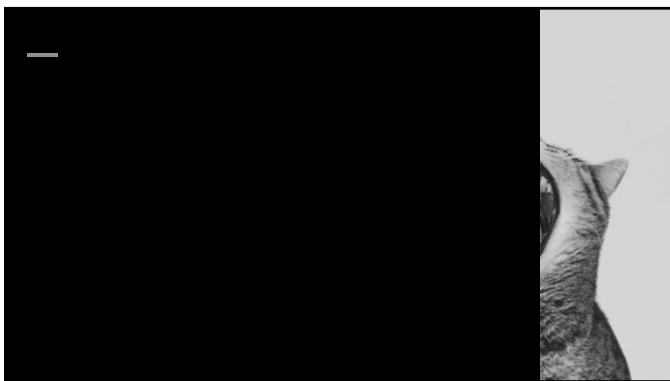
IDENTIFY RELIABLE RESOURCES WHEN FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ANIMALS

3

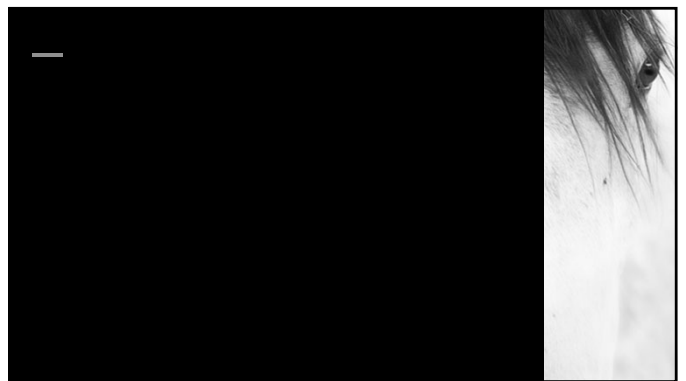
Pharmacokinetic Species Differences: Dogs

- Monogastric
- GI Transit Time: 7-9 hours
- Gastric pH: 1.1 fed, 2.0 fasted
- pH of 1.1 facilitates the digestion of meat and kills pathogenic bacteria

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Pharmacokinetic
Species
Differences:
Nontraditional
Pets

- Nontraditional pets such as rabbits and “pocket pets” which include guinea pigs, hamsters, hedgehogs, mice, rats, gerbils, chinchillas, and sugar gliders
- PK studies are lacking in nontraditional pets
- Generally, anecdotal experience guides drug dosing in these species

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- Similar physiology between humans and animals
- Maintaining ideal body weight, using heat or cold therapy for localized pain, and physical therapy can all help with pain
- Conditions that may require pharmacologic treatment include osteoarthritis, postoperative procedure, trauma, degenerative joint disease, neoplastic pain
- Difficult to determine if behaviors such as whining, trying to escape, vocalizing, or being aggressive are from pain or another reason

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Which Oral
Solution Likely
Contains Xylitol?

- a) Tramadol
- b) Codeine-guaifenesin
- c) Gabapentin

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- Mild to moderate pain
- Veterinary NSAIDs are COX2 selective
- Dogs and cats are more sensitive to GI and renal adverse effects than humans
- Cats are more sensitive than dogs to renal adverse effects
- Can result in kidney and liver failure
- Counsel owners to monitor for lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, or black/tarry stools

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- In dogs 0.2 mg/kg PO QD for osteoarthritis
- In cats 0.1 mg/kg PO QD
- In horses 0.6 mg/kg PO QD for up to 14 days in adults or foals 6 weeks or older
- Give on top of food or with food

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- Commonly used in combination with an opioid
- Toxic to cats and ferrets
- In dogs 10-15 mg/kg PO q8h
- In horses 20-30 mg/kg PO either QD or BID
- Immediate release tablet can be split/crushed to be given with food

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- Mild to severe pain
- Mild respiratory depression in animals
- Low oral bioavailability and rapid elimination
- Like humans, animals can experience GI side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and constipation

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- In dogs as a single agent 0.5 - 1 mg/kg PO q4-6h
- In dogs in combination with acetaminophen 1-2 mg/kg PO q8h
- In cats as a single agent 0.5 - 2 mg/kg PO q6-8h
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given codeine without food, try giving it with a food or a treat
- "Morphine mania" in cats

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- In dogs 4-10 mg/kg PO q8h
- In cats for osteoarthritis 3 mg/kg PO q12h
- In horses 5-10 mg/kg PO q12h
- Dogs don't produce the active metabolite
- Longer half-life in cats (3-4 hours) than in dogs
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given tramadol without food, try giving it with a food or a treat
 - Canned food may help hide tramadol's bitter taste

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- In dogs 10-20 mg/kg PO q8-12h
- In cats 10 mg/kg PO q12h
- Most human oral solutions contain xylitol
- Xylitol is highly TOXIC and can result in hypoglycemia and liver failure
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given gabapentin without food, try giving it with a food or a treat

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- In dogs 2-5 mg/kg PO q8-12h
- In cats 1 mg/kg PO q8-12h
- Gabapentin more commonly prescribed for cost reduction
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given pregabalin without food, try giving it with a food or a treat

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Which Oral Solution Likely Contains Xylitol?

- a) Tramadol
- b) Codeine-guaifenesin
- c) **Gabapentin**

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Infections

- Antimicrobial stewardship still important in veterinary patients
- Some pathogens that infect animals are also common causes of infection in humans (ex: *E coli*)
- Other pathogens are exclusive to animals (ex: equine herpes virus)
- Zoonotic transmission involves infection transmitting from animals to humans and vice versa

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Which Medication Must be Given with a Moist Treat or Small Amount of Liquid to Prevent Esophageal Erosion?

- Metronidazole
- Doxycycline
- Cephalexin

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Infections: Respiratory Disease

- Transmission can occur from viruses and bacteria in the air or from coming into contact with a contaminated surface or directly from another pet
- Pets are likely to pickup germs at places where they are in close contact with one another such as at boarding kennels, parks, groomers, or pet shows
- Common signs of respiratory disease:
 - Coughing
 - Sneezing
 - Nasal or eye discharge
 - Difficulty breathing or wheezing



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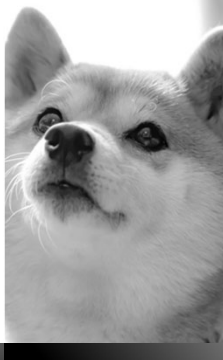
Infections: UTI

- More common in female dogs due to the urethra being closer to the anus
- Can occur when bacteria from the skin or feces reaches the urethra or from animals not urinating often enough
- Common signs of UTI:
 - Incontinent
 - Excessive licking around genitals
 - Straining to urinate
 - Frequent urination with small amounts

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Infections: Pyoderma

- Common in dogs
- Can be caused by infection, inflammation, or cancer
- Mainly caused by bacterial infections but can be secondary to conditions such as allergies or parasites
- Symptoms of pyoderma:
 - Redness
 - Swelling
 - Scabbing/crusting
 - Secretion of blood and pus



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Infections: Amoxicillin/Clavulanate

- Used to treat skin and soft tissue infections (SSTI), endocarditis, respiratory disease, urinary tract infections (UTI), and pyoderma
 - In dogs for SSTI 13.75 mg/kg PO twice daily
 - In cats for SSTI 62.5mg/CAT PO twice daily

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Infections: Amoxicillin/Clavulanate

- Veterinary amox/clav has a 4:1 ratio whereas human formulations vary in their ratios
 - Can be used interchangeably
 - Veterinary product is listed as the sum of the amox/clav component
- Can be given with or without food, but best to give with food to prevent GI side effects
- Do not give to any "pocket pets" as life-threatening diarrhea can occur

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Infections: Cephalexin

- Can be used in dogs, cats, birds, and ferrets
- Used to treat skin infections and UTIs
 - In dogs with skin infections 15-30 mg/kg PO q12h
 - In cats with skin infections 15-30 mg/kg PO q12h
- Generally recommended to continue medication 1-2 weeks after clinical signs have resolved
- Can be given with or without food, but best to give with food to prevent GI side effects

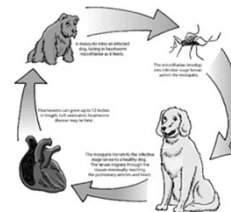
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Infections: Canine Heartworm Disease

- Preventable, but potentially fatal
- Caused by the worm parasite, *Dirofilaria immitis*
- Transmitted by mosquitoes
- Live in blood vessels, but in severe cases can live in the heart
- Parasites cause cardiac stress and inflammation
- Reinfection possible

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Infections: Canine Heartworm Disease



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Infections: Doxycycline

- Used to treat a variety of infections including canine heartworm disease, Rickettsial diseases, chlamydial infections, and respiratory infections.
 - In dogs with susceptible bacterial infections 5-10 mg/kg PO q 12-24h
 - In dogs with canine heartworm disease 10 mg/kg PO q12h for 4 weeks
 - In cats with susceptible bacterial infections 5 mg/kg PO twice daily
 - In pocket pets with susceptible bacterial infection 2.5-5 mg/kg PO q12h

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Infections: Doxycycline

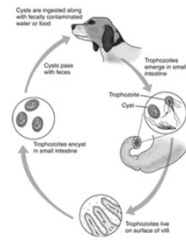
- Must be given with a moist treat or a small amount of liquid
 - Do not give as a dry pill or capsule!
 - Esophageal erosion, strictures, and esophagitis can occur in tablet gets lodged in the esophagus
 - Give with food to minimize stomach upset
 - Avoid administering multivitamins, calcium supplements, antacids, or laxatives within 2 hours of doxycycline
 - May make pets skin more sensitive to sunlight



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Infections: Giardia

- Caused by the parasite, Giardia
- Dogs become infected when they sniff or ingest the cyst stage of the parasite
- Can be in feces, soil, or water
- Often asymptomatic in health canines
- Most common sign is diarrhea
- Reinfection possible



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Infections: Metronidazole

- Used to treat infections including *Giardia*, anaerobic infections, protozoal infections, perioperative surgical prophylaxis, inflammatory bowel disease.
- Can be used in cats, dogs, horses, bird, ferrets, pocket pets, and reptiles/amphibians
 - In dogs with less severe anaerobic infections 10-15 mg/kg PO q8-12
 - In cats with less severe anaerobic infection 10-15 mg/kg PO q12h
 - In dogs with Giardiasis 25 mg/kg PO twice daily for 5 consecutive days
- Rapidly absorbed in small animals

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Infections: Metronidazole

- Give with food
- Bitter, unpleasant taste may be alleviated by placing tablets in gelatin capsules or using a capsule formulation
- CNS side effects can be seen at high doses
- Side effects may dissipate 1 to 2 weeks after discontinuation of the drug
- Banned for use food animals (including food products)



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Which Medication Must be Given with a Moist Treat or Small Amount of Liquid to Prevent Esophageal Erosion?

- Metronidazole
- Doxycycline**
- Cephalexin

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Congestive Heart Failure

- Anatomically similar in dogs, cats, and humans
- Surgery is an option, but not widely available
- Drug cocktail includes a diuretic, an ACE inhibitor, pimobendane, and spironolactone
- Symptoms
 - Chronic cough
 - Lethargy, reduced stamina
 - Difficulty getting comfortable
 - Trouble breathing



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Congestive Heart Failure: Furosemide

- Also used for pulmonary edema, acute kidney injury, as an adjunct in hyperkalemia, and hypercalcemia
- Used in dogs, cats, horses, birds, pocket pets, reptiles
 - In dogs and cats with edema 2.2-5.5 mg/kg PO QD
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given furosemide without food, try giving it with a food or a treat



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Congestive Heart Failure: Enalapril

- Also used for chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and proteinuria in dogs and cats
- Used in dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and ferrets
 - In dogs with heart failure 0.5 mg/kg PO QD
 - In cats with heart failure 0.25-0.5 mg/kg PO QD
- Generally, well tolerated with GI side effects being the most common
- Avoid use in pregnancy
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given enalapril without food, try giving it with a food or a treat



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Congestive Heart Failure: Spironolactone

- Research conflicting spironolactone's ability to provide cardio protection in canines
- Used in congestive heart failure caused by myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD), ascites, hypertension
- In dogs with MMVD 0.5-4 mg/kg PO q12-24h
- Give with a meal
- Hazardous drug, counsel owners to consider using precautions such as wearing gloves especially if pregnant



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- Pets can suffer from chronic anxiety or situational anxiety (ex: vet visits)
- Signs of anxiety can be subtle or mistaken for another disorder
- Symptoms in dogs:
 - Yawning
 - Tail tucked under body
 - Scratching
 - Sniffing
- Symptoms in cats:
 - Excessive grooming
 - Scratching
 - Urinating or defecating outside of litter box
 - Hiding

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When Should Anti-Anxiety Medications be Given to Pets to Prevent Anxiety in Stressful Events?

- During the stressful event
- Whenever your pet asks for it
- 1 to 2 hours prior to stressful event

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- May also be used for aggression and other behavior disorders
- Can be used in dogs, cats, horses, birds, ferrets, and rabbits
 - In dogs with separation anxiety 1-2 mg/kg PO once daily in conjunction with a behavior modification plan
 - In cats with behavior disorders 0.5-1.3 mg/kg PO q24h
- Common side effects include lethargy, hyporexia, and weight loss
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given fluoxetine without food, try giving it with a food or a treat

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- Effects can be seen within 4 weeks, but may take up to 8 weeks to see a full effect
- Do not use a flea/tick collar while on this medication
- Alert veterinarian if patient has been on a flea/tick collar within 2 weeks
- Some collars contain the MAOI, amitraz
- MAOIs should be avoided with this medication to prevent serotonin syndrome
- A two week washout period is recommended

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- May also be used for aggression and other behavior disorders
- Used in cats and dogs
- In dogs with anxiety 0.5-4 mg/kg PO q24h
- In cats with anxiety 0.5-1.5 mg/kg PO q24h
- Common side effects include drowsiness, sleepiness, and decreased appetite
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given sertraline without food, try giving it with a food or a treat

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- May take between 6 to 8 weeks to see full effect
- Do not discontinue abruptly, wean off over at least 2 to 3 weeks
- Do not use a flea/tick collar while on this medication
- Alert veterinarian if patient has been on a flea/tick collar within 2 weeks
- Avoid concurrent therapy with an MAOI or within a 14 days of using an MAOI

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- Used in dogs, cats, and horses
- Often used in combination with gabapentin to treat anxiety in stressful conditions such as veterinary visits, thunderstorms, or transportation
- In dogs with anxiety 2-19.5 mg/kg/day
- In cats prior to veterinary visits 50 mg/cat PO 60-90 minutes prior to appointment
- Common side effects include sleepiness and decreased activity
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given trazodone without food, try giving it with a food or a treat

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- Chronic administration may require 1 to 2 weeks to see full effect
- If using chronically, may gradually reduce dose to prevent withdrawal symptoms
- Trazodone should be administered 1 to 2 hours before acute stressful event
- Use caution in working/service dogs because they may not be able to fully perform their duties while taking trazodone

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- Used in dogs and cats
- Can also be used in epilepsy or as a muscle relaxant
- In dogs with anxiety 0.1-1 mg/kg PO up to 2-3 times/day
- In cats with anxiety 0.02-0.25 mg/kg PO up to 2 times/day
- Common side effects include sleepiness, drooling, greater appetite
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given clonazepam without food, try giving it with a food or a treat
- Give clonazepam an hour before stressful event

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When Should Anti-Anxiety Medications be Given to Pets to Prevent Anxiety in Stressful Events?

- a) During the stressful event
- b) Whenever your pet asks for it
- c) **1 to 2 hours prior to stressful event**

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Thyroid Diseases: Hyperthyroidism

- Hyperthyroidism is a common disease in cats
- Mainly affects middle-aged and older cats
- Signs include:
 - Weight loss
 - Hyperactivity
 - Tachycardia
- Treatment options include radioactive iodine therapy, surgery, dietary therapy (iodine-restricted diet), and medication



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Thyroid Diseases: Methimazole

- Can be used in cats and guinea pigs
- In cats 2.5 mg/CAT PO q12h
- Can titrate in 2.5 mg increments
- Max daily dose is 20 mg divided
- Do not exceed 10 mg in a single dose



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Thyroid Diseases: Methimazole

- Pregnant women, nursing mothers, or those trying to become pregnant should avoid handling this medication
- Generally, well tolerated
- Common side effects include vomiting and poor/decreased appetite
- May give with or without food
 - If animals acts sick after being given methimazole without food, try giving it with a food or a treat
- Human products have a bitter taste compared to veterinary products



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Thyroid Diseases: Hypothyroidism

- Hypothyroidism is common in dogs and rare in cats
- Occurrence in cats is usually from overtreatment of hyperthyroidism
- Signs include:
 - Weight gain
 - Lethargy
 - Exercise intolerance
 - Muscle weakness
 - Unique to dogs are alopecia and thinning hair coat
- Treatment includes levothyroxine

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Thyroid Diseases: Levothyroxine

- Can be used in dogs, cats, horses, birds, and reptiles
- In dogs 0.022 mg/kg PO in single or divided doses
- In cats 0.05 – 0.15 mg/CAT PO once daily
- May be given with or without food
- Give at the same day everyday
- Generally, well tolerated
- Common side effects include racing heartbeat, greater appetite with weight loss, and increased thirst and need to urinate

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Resources for Filling Prescriptions for Animals



Plumbs

Printed and electronic format

Author: Donald C. Plumb, PharmD and various contributors in the veterinary field



Saunders Handbook of Veterinary Drugs: Small and Large Animal

Printed and eBook format

Author: Mark G. Papich, board-certified veterinary clinical pharmacology expert



The Exotic Animal Formulary

Printed

Authors: James W. Carpenter, clinical and research veterinarian

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Resources for Filling Prescriptions for Animals



Journal of Veterinary Internal
Medicine

Electronic



Veterinary Information Network

Electronic format
277 consultants and editors



Merck Manual – Veterinary
Manual

Printed and electronic format

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Questions?



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