

Pain relief in dogs

The future of arthritis in most dogs.

Dogs go through the following schema until we can't help their pain any more.

1. Bufferin as needed. There are special caveats and conditions. Four days a week tops. Dose varies.

You cannot do Bufferin all week so then:

2. Deramax / Rimadyl / Novox (NSAIDS/CoxII) As needed
3. Deramax / Rimadyl / Novox (NSAIDS) on the daily.

When that tapers in effectiveness over the years:

4. NSAIDS as above PLUS: Tramadol
5. NSAIDS & Tramadol PLUS Gabapentin
6. NSAIDS & Tramadol PLUS Gabapentin PLUS Methocarbamol

In truth there can be some variability in the choices of the adjunct pain meds chosen above.

After NSAIDS & Gabapentin, Tramadol PLUS Methocarbamol has tapered in effectiveness:

7. Change NSAID to steroid. (Prednisone) Side Effects aren't threatening but thirst and peeing-a lot occur. At levels which are usually intolerable to owners. Most dogs by this point have continence issues.
8. SOMEWHERE along in here we may add: Cannabis therapy.

CBD (Male plant oil) is weakly effective. It is a LAME "marijuana therapy" the media is building up and veterinarians are engaging to be "cool" as some fads spread like that. The research and the clinical results are worse than disappointing.

THC (Female plant oil) (The legislated kind) is **EXTREMELY** effective.

Note on THC: Decriminalized in Georgia. Means, legal to have but not to sell. Quantities that suggest you're selling get you in trouble. NEVER ship the THC Dog Chews (Stardust Chews) via US Postal. It can be shipped via private carrier United Parcel Service (UPS)

Stardust Chews are available from a business concern in Los Angeles.

(barbarawildlyorganic@icloud.com) Stardust chews contain a small but effective amount of THC (1.95mg per bone) and I have given these to a lot of pets with excellent effect on ***anxiety*** and ***pain***.

These are also ideal for anxiety, and it's anti-cancer benefits. (johnsonvet.com/THC)

GABAPENTIN AND DOGS – Stuff You Should Know

GABAPENTIN is known as “Neurontin” in people-medicine.

GABAPENTIN Can be used for the following therapies:

- 1) Pain (Soft tissue and spinal)
- 2) Pain (Bone / osteoarthritis)
- 3) Anti-convulsant therapy. (Pets with rare seizures or adjunctive to other meds)
- 4) Tremors in extremities
- 5) Nighttime pacing and anxiety in elderly dogs.
- 6) Sleep aid

How Safe Is Gabapentin?

To administer enough to endanger a mouse, you must give one THOUSAND milligrams per kilogram.

Gabapentin is a VERY safe medication. Unlike other anticonvulsants and pain medications, the patient does not require serial blood tests to assess organ function on the medication.

	Often Used Alone	Combinations	Used “To Effect” or “As Needed”	Used Morning, Night or Twice a day.	Try to Titrate Up
Soft tissue and spinal pain	No	Yes	No	Twice	Yes
Bone & Arthritic Pain	No	Yes	Decided by case	Twice	Yes
Anti-convulsant	Yes	Decided by case	No	Decided by case	No
Tremors	Yes	Decided by case	Yes	Decided by case	No
Pacing / Anxiety	Yes	Decided by case	Yes	Night	No
Sleep Aid	Yes	No	Yes	Night	No

Generalities About Gabapentin

- 1) In general, Gabapentin is used with two other medications when attacking PAIN. Those two medications would be an anti-inflammatory like a COX2 Inhibitor (Deramax / Celebrex), and a pain reducer like Tramadol.
- 2) In general, for pain, we like to titrate up to the highest tolerable dose we can get that does NOT cause mental “vacancy” effects. (The lights are on but no one’s home)
- 3) In general, for tremors, anxiety or as an anticonvulsant benefits, we start with the lowest published dose and slowly increase the dose until the desired effect is achieved. We do not try to give the maximum tolerable amount. We try for the minimum-effective dose.

A dog may show *intolerance* to Gabapentin but that can be compensated. They get “used to the medicine” relatively quickly, but in the meantime, we can see mental “vacancy” effects. (The lights are on but no one’s home) To compensate this, we administer the medication by way of titration, or *slow-increase*. It is very definitely worth it, for bone and spinal pain.

Titration.

Titration is usually easy in dogs over 40 pounds. Typically we would start at 100mg twice a day and then increase by 100mg twice per day every 1-2 weeks.

In dogs smaller than 40 pounds, titration is the *only* way to use Gabapentin and takes a while.

FOR SMALL DOGS: Once a day PM dosing is one way to titrate up to a higher dose. You can dose more and more heavily at night, when sleepiness is acceptable; increasing the dose as prescribed until it’s decided that it’s okay to dose Gabapentin in the morning. Then you can gradually increase the morning dose until it equals the evening dose.