POWER POOCHES

Creating Confident Canines

- ✓ Behavioural Desensitising
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Walking



Medications for ANXIETY IN DOGS

CLONIDINE

What is clonidine?

Clonidine is a short-acting anti-anxiety medication. It can be given twice a day or used just when needed to help situational anxiety. It is used to treat anxiety disorders such as separation anxiety, generalised anxiety, phobias and aggression in dogs.

How long does it take to work?

Clonidine takes around 90 minutes to take effect and lasts for up to 8–10 hours.

Are there any side effects from the medication?

Clonidine is generally well tolerated with few side-effects. Clonidine can cause dry mouth, constipation, sedation, aggressive behavior, low blood pressure, wobbliness and collapse.

There is a low risk that clonidine can disinhibit aggression, making aggressive responses quicker and harder to manage.

Please ensure safety at home and on walks during this trial.

Does this medication change my dog's personality?

No. Clonidine just reduces anxiety. It should not change your dog's personality or cause sedation.



FLUOXETINE

What is fluoxetine?

Fluoxetine is an anti-anxiety medication. It is used to treat anxiety disorders such as separation anxiety, generalised anxiety, phobias and aggression in dogs. Fluoxetine is not currently registered to use in dogs in Australia although it has been previously. Fluoxetine has been used to treat anxiety disorders in animals for many years.

Fluoxetine is an SSRI that increases the level of serotonin within the brain as well as producing structural and functional changes in the brain.

How long does it take to work?

This medication will take at least 4–6 weeks to produce behavioural changes.

Do I need to dissolve the tablet in water?

Fluoxetine comes in both tablet and capsule form. You will generally be given a script for tablets when your dog starts on fluoxetine so we can change to dose if needed. The tablets can be dissolved in water (for people) however you do not need to dissolve it in water for your dog. Simply hide the medication in food.

Are there any side effects from the medication?

Fluoxetine is generally well tolerated with few side-effects. If there are any side effects, they are most likely to be seen in the first few weeks of treatment.

Fluoxetine may cause decreased appetite and decreased energy. These are usually mild and pass within 10–14 days. Other rare effects include vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, panting, irritability, paradoxical increase in anxiety, noise sensitivity, increased drinking due to dry mouth and light sensitivity.

Neurological signs such as trembling and shaking may be seen at higher doses. If you notice any of these signs please consult your vet.

Does this medication change my dog's personality?

No. Fluoxetine just reduces anxiety. It should not change the personality of the dog or cause sedation. If you have any concerns about the effect fluoxetine is having on your dog, please speak with your vet as they may need to make a change to the medication.

Is it safe to use other supplements for my dog?

Fluoxetine can interact with some supplements used to help anxiety. Please do not use supplements containing tryptophan or St Johns Wort while using fluoxetine.

Can I stop giving my dog fluoxetine?

This medication should not be discontinued abruptly after being administered longer than one month as serious side effects can occur. Please do not stop the medication without consulting your vet.