

Buprenorphine (Buprenex)

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Buprenorphine is used to treat pain in dogs and cats. Buprenorphine is a synthetic partial opiate agonist.

How do I give this medication?

- Buprenorphine is usually given to cats twice daily as needed for pain control.
- The medication should be squirted in the cheek pouch (between cheek and gums) for maximal effect. **Read the label carefully.**
- Try to give this medication at about the same time(s) each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed.
- **DO NOT** give the medicine more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.
- Successful outcome of your pet's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment & ability to give this medication as the veterinarian has prescribed.

What do I do if I miss giving a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

How do I store this medicine?

- **Keep this medicine out of reach of children.**
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

What are the potential side effects?

Sedation is the most commonly experienced side effect. Your pet may experience some drowsiness. If these symptoms appear excessive or persist, contact your veterinarian. Although rare, depression of breathing may occur.

Are there any possible drug interactions?

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving to your pet.
- Quite often, your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and sometimes a drug interaction may occur. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with buprenorphine: other central nervous system depressant agents, pancuronium, monoamine oxidase inhibitors and local anesthetics. Certain flea collars and flea/tick dips containing amitraz should not be worn or used within 14 days of buprenorphine as this combination may cause dangerous rise in body temperatures & blood pressure. Aged cheese can also cause this effect so do not give the pet aged cheese while on this drug.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

DO NOT GIVE THIS MEDICATION TO ANY HUMAN OR ANOTHER PET OTHER THAN THE ANIMAL FOR WHOM IT WAS PRESCRIBED

This client information sheet is based on material written by: Lifelearn Inc.