

## Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

NSAIDs are pain medications. The first drug in this class of medication was aspirin. Aspirin in the form of willow bark was known by American Indians to be an effective pain medication but it was not until 1973 that the mechanism of action was discovered. Since this time, more potent forms of aspirin have been developed that are safer for the stomach and kidneys. Examples of the newer forms of aspirin in people include celebrex and ibuprofen. There have been NSAIDs specifically designed for dogs that are safe and effective pain medications (see below).

NSAIDs are thought in people to have the best pain fighting characteristics relative to side effects and addiction potential. A BVNS doctor would prescribe an NSAID anytime a patient is thought to be painful. We often use pain modulators as well which are not as effective but are safer. Examples would include gabapentin, tramadol and amitriptyline.

NSAIDs can cause stomach and intestinal problems, damage the kidneys and less commonly the liver and bone marrow. These problems are uncommon to rare, especially with appropriate monitoring.

### Important points about NSAIDs:

NSAIDs	Steroids
Aspirin Rimadyl/Carprofen Etogesic/Etodolac Deramaxx/Deracoxib Metacam/Meloxicam Previcox/Firocoxib Zubrin/Tepoxalin	Cortisone Dexamethasone Medrol/Methylprednisolone Prednisone Triamcinolone

Stop NSAID therapy and notify your veterinarian if you pet experiences:

- Decrease in appetite or vomiting
- Dark or bloody diarrhea
- Increased drinking or urination
- Lethargy, yellowing of yellowing of gums, skin, or whites of the eyes (jaundice)
- Yellowing of skin, gums, whites of eye or bleeding under the skin