

Selected postings from the Pet Forum at
<http://www.arthritis-cats-dogs.com/>

Jill

Posted on 25 Apr 2004 at 02:47.00 AM

Five months ago my 11 year old healthy persian cat suddenly had a hard time jumping up and down off furniture so I took him to the vet. He took x-rays, blood work, couldn't find the problem but prescribed Metacam. He told me to give my 10 lb. cat 20 drops the first day and 10 drops for the next 4 days and then 1-2 drops daily. Well, by the 3rd day he was so sick from vomiting, diarrhea, he had dry heaves, and he was laying on his side trying to vomit! For 5 days he didn't eat or drink. He lost 1 lb. in less than a week. I kept thinking he was going to be dead when I checked on him. I called the vet, he wanted to give prednisone and Metoclopramide (for vomiting). I said no way and took him to another vet and they promptly put him on IV, gave him blood glucose, PCV and Famotidine for 2 days and thankfully saved his life!

I called the manufacturers of Metacam and spoke to 2 different people and they do not recommend Metacam for cats and therefore, will not even discuss dosage amounts for cats. Being so sick of all these drugs, none of which have helped my cat, I've looked into Holistic Health care (my cat's story is much longer) and I found that nutrition is key to helping them. I put my cat on Solid Gold food and supplements (www.solidgoldhealth.com) and he is doing much better all around in 2 months than the past year under the care of 3 different vets (and \$1,000 later). My advice--do a lot of research before you give your cat anything. I feel so guilty for listening to the vet and overdosing my cat on such a strong drug.

Regards, Jill

Pam

Posted on 03 Jul 2005 at 03:18.18 AM

My 1 1/2 year old cat was prescribed Metacam (oral dosage) for pain relief just three days ago, and is right now hooked up to an IV at the vet. They're saying he's in acute kidney failure - his kidneys are only functioning at about 25%. This was a perfectly healthy young cat until he started on Metacam, and now he might not live through the night.

I called the company who manufactures the drug directly; their instructions - the drug has been approved for oral administration in dogs only, and should not, under any circumstances, be given to cats.

I wish I'd done the research first.

Betsy

Posted on 20 Aug 2005 at 05:01.09 AM

Pam - I hope your kitty survived.

I took a stray cat to a vet on 7/14 because he seemed to have lost a ton of weight and was bleeding from the mouth. The vet called me 10 hours later and told me the cat's kidneys had failed. I transferred him to another vet where this cat remained on IV fluids for 20 days. Turns out vet #1 gave him Metacam within an hour of his arrival. His blood was allegedly drawn around the same time, so the values showing the kidney failure could have existed before the Metacam was administered. But I have my suspicions and have filed a complaint with my state's board of veterinary examiners, because Metacam was clearly uncalled for in this situation. This cat appears to be about a year old, and even if his kidneys were already failing before the Metacam, Metacam probably made it worse - IV fluids for kidney failure is only supposed to take 2-4 days.

But hey - hang in there. My guy stabilized and now I have him at my house. I hope things work out for you. Definitely complain to your state's agency that regulates vets!!!

JD

Posted on 03 Jan 2006 at 06:02.09 AM

Be Cautious Using Metacam for Cats. I suspect that Metacam induced a fatal stroke in our 15-year old male cat. The cat had surgery to remove an external growth. The vet prescribed Metacam as a post-surgery pain reliever and as a potential long-term drug for arthritis. The vet had considerable experience using Metacam with many animal species. The dosage prescribed for the 12 lb cat was 0.7 mL from a tuberculin syringe daily in food. According to my measurements, 0.7 mL produces 21-22 drops from the tuberculin syringe, and 2-3 drops from the tuberculin syringe equals a drop from the dropper bottle or the big syringe included with the drug. Thus, the cat received the equivalent of 7-10 drops from the dropper bottle or large syringe. This is close to what is recommended for a dog. The cat was strong and active before surgery, and had been taking glucosamine daily and 5 mg of prednisone every third day successfully for arthritis. The cat seemed to recover quickly from the surgery and ate well in the evening. I gave the cat 0.7 mL of Metacam the next two mornings, and the cat ate well. Then, the second afternoon, he lost interest in food. In the middle of the night, he wobbled around, bumped into objects, and couldn't figure out how to maneuver around them. We admitted him to the vet clinic. His heart was strong, and his blood tests indicated that his kidneys and liver were functioning. He went into a stupor in the afternoon and then slipped away later. The

diagnosis was a stroke. There are many warnings on the Internet about Metacam in cats, and some postings suggest good results with dosages of 1-3 drops every few days. The best or safest dosage and frequency may not be known. You should consult other sites (e.g., www.cvmb.colostate.edu/ivapm, vetmedicine.about.com, etc.) before giving your cat Metacam.

Margaret

Posted on 16 Apr 2006 at 01:13.50 PM

I am still trying to find out why my cat Larry suddenly died, I am sure it is because of the medication he was given as he had always been a very strong and healthy cat until he developed a slight limp in October last year. He was given 7 drops of Metacam and cartrophen injections at the same time, after three Cartrophen injections we sensed it was not suiting him, the vet then prescribed 15 drops of Metacam a day! I have been in touch with Metacam who say although it is not licensed for Cats it is often used. I feel I must find out the truth whether these two drugs are compatible with each other, I doubt if the drug companies will help me. I do not want any other pets to die if these drugs given together are to blame
Margaret from England

Heather

Posted on 05 Jun 2006 at 10:49.15 PM

Do not use this for your cat!!!! I too now have significant vet bills because my 10 year old Ragdoll, after having a sprained leg, my vet prescribed Metacam. Within 2 weeks she stopped eating and lost 2lbs. She is now in the hospital on intravenous trying to flush her kidney's which are in failure. If I had known this I would never have put her on this medication.

Zabine's Owner

Posted on 20 Jun 2006 at 02:11.17 PM

Metacam Oral Suspension kills cats, and the manufacturer admits it. Do not administer it under any circumstances.

My little angel Zabine (a 6-yr-old Persian) died last night. She underwent dental surgery four days ago and had an injection of Metacam at that time. She seemed fine after the surgery, but the following morning she didn't eat and looked lethargic. I administered a dose of Metacam Oral Suspension as prescribed by the vet, and within an hour she was hyperventilating (60-80 breaths per minute). Two hours after the Metacam, I took her back to the vet. She had a high fever (41 degrees C) and they admitted her to the hospital. Her condition deteriorated rapidly; the following day she could no longer

stand up. Blood tests indicated immune system failure, and a chest X-ray showed lesions in the lungs (a few days earlier, Sabine had her annual exam with a baseline blood test and was deemed in perfect health). Four and a half days after the surgery, Sabine died.

The Metacam product monograph on the Boehringer-Ingelheim website (www.metacam.us) instructs veterinarians to advise cat owners of the potential toxicity of the drug. It mentions 13 times that this is a single-use drug and that additional doses are contraindicated. Yet my vet prescribed FOUR additional doses. The monograph also describes a nine-day test in which three cats died as a result of additional oral doses, and a fourth was on the verge of death. There's a Notice of Violation on the FDA website regarding misleading advertising for Metacam that might explain why my vet prescribed Metacam anyway.

Bear in mind that Metacam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) of the same family as Vioxx, which was withdrawn from the market due to fatal side effects (but not before the manufacturer sold billions of dollars of the drug).

So if your vet prescribes Metacam for your cat, immediately ask him to read the product monograph in the package, and tell him to do a Google search on "Metacam died". And refuse the medication.

This is my darling Zabine's legacy. Although I weep as I write this, I hope her death will alert us to the dangers of Metacam and prevent future tragedies.

Traytee

Posted on 10 Sep 2005 at 05:40.46 PM

August 29th 2005, my 11 year old cat went under the knife to have a tumor removed from his lung. The surgery went well and he seemed great the following day, pretty much like his old self, just taking it a bit easier. His surgeon sent us home with Metacam for pain. The dose was 12 drops a day for 5 days, then 6 drops a day as needed for pain. I effectively poisoned my cat and he is now in the hospital trying to recover from kidney damage. 85% damage to his kidneys. While I do blame myself for not looking up this medication, I lay most of the blame on the surgeon. I trusted her unfortunately and my little pet is paying the price.

I have to wonder...and will be asking her face to face, if the kickback she gets from the drug company is worth what she did to my beloved little cat.

I contacted the company that makes the drug and they admitted that they have several reports of this very thing happening to cats who

stated in all of their pamphlets, and they stress it in all of their writings. And yet all these vets think they know better. Take it from someone that has seen a lot of tears from owners because they lost their best friend, the vet is WRONG! There is no safe dosage of the oral suspension for cats! End of discussion! Metacam has an injectable Metacam that was developed for use in post surgical pain in cats after major procedures. This is a different chemical makeup than the oral. Also the injectable has the following warning from the manufacturer:

Warning

Do not administer a second dose of meloxicam. Do not follow meloxicam dose with any other NSAID.

Followed by:

"Repeated use in cats has been associated with acute renal failure and death."

There is no time this medication should be given to a cat unless it is the injectable form and it is administered in a single dosage by the vet only. The manufacturer is more than clear about this. If your vet recommends otherwise, and your love your cat, find a new vet.

donna

Posted on 31 May 2005 at 08:45.20 PM

I just had my cats teeth cleaned and the vet indicated he needed to extract some teeth. After work was done, the vet gave me Metacam to give to my cat. The doses were .6ml the first day..3 ml the next four days & .1 ml three times a week. I was at my second dose of .1 ml when my cat started acting disoriented and she had vomit twice. She hasn't eaten and has been drinking water quite more than normal. I was worried, so I took her back to the vet. He took some test and told me her kidney has some damage and can't explain why because he did the complete blood work prior to the cleaning & extraction of the teeth. He also discovered ulcers in her mouth. The vet then provide me w/ IV and Baytril antibiotics. My concern is..was the dosage too high for my cat to handle? I am on my 5th day w/ the IV and my cat hasn't eaten and still somewhat weak. IV is helping.

Unregistered

Posted on 27 Aug 2005 at 11:19.49 PM

My 10 yr old cat Tony started out with very out of character activities he seemed to be very lazy and triing to go pee everywhere and for Tony who used his litter box only it was very wierd. So I started to pay more attention and noticed that he wasn't passing any pee but triing so hard. I took him to the vet. She told me it was

an urinary tract disease and he had crystals and blood in his pee. She said that a large amount of older male cats get it and that a diet change was needed along with antibiotics and pain medication (METACAM). The antibiotics were to be taken 2 a day and the Metacam was 10drops every day for 4 days and then 2 drops every day for 5 days. We all know that its not the easiest to give cats meds so I squeezed the bottle and didn't really give him exactly 10 drops because there was no way he would sit there. Then after the first day he started to vomit everywhere.After cleaning up about 15 messes in 3 days I called vet and she said to take him off the Metacam. The next day I noticed his face was very swollen especially his chin. I took him to the vet right then. She said that his urine was very good clear of crystals and blood. But she wanted to take some blood work. Going through something simular with a previous pet that i put through hell to save I thought Tony would be better off put to sleep. My Tony was gone.... I get home and was about to have a break down throwing away his medicine I seen for use of dog on the box (stupid and nieve to assume the vet was credibal) I got on the computer and research METACAM. I found that it's not even legalized in canada for cats use. That the side effects of it are vomiting,dehydration,loss of appetite.Everything that was wrong with Tony and then overdose side effects was swelling of the face. The so called DR didn't say we need to switch the meds. So I put him down because of her.....

Oh yeah I also read that a half a teaspoon of Metacam is enough pain killer for a 75lb dog for 24hrs..... Tony was taking that much..... Please if anyone has any advice how I could go about taking legal action on this money hungry vet please respond. And please use my story to help you stand up for your pet who can't speake for it's self.....

He was my angel.
