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Veterinary Specialists  
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## NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)

Your pet has been prescribed a medication that may have side effects and should be carefully monitored.

Corticosteroids, or steroids, are most often prescribed to decrease inflammation or suppress an abnormally stimulated immune system. Steroidal drugs include prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, and methylprednisolone acetate. The dose given will vary depending on the disease or condition that is being treated. Common side effects include increased water drinking, increased urination, appetite increase, and increased panting. Occasionally, an animal will develop vomiting, diarrhea, appetite loss, or behavioral changes. In extreme cases, stomach or intestinal ulceration can develop. Rarely, cats can develop diabetes from treatment with steroids. Life threatening side effects are rare if the medication is discontinued early.

Common nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) include: aspirin, carprofen (Rimadyl ®), etodolac (Etogesic ®), deracoxib (Deramaxx ®), and piroxicam (Feldene ®). These drugs are commonly given to reduce pain and inflammation secondary to arthritis and other conditions in dogs. They are not generally considered safe in cats. The most common side effects of NSAIDs involve the gastrointestinal tract, kidney, and liver. If noted, the following side effects should be reported immediately to your veterinarian and the medication should be discontinued: decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, especially if bloody or tarry (black) stools, lethargy, yellowing of gums, skin or whites of eyes, or increased water drinking. Serious adverse reactions associated with NSAIDs can occur without warning and in rare cases can result in death.

Never use more than one NSAID at the same time, and do not use steroids and NSAIDs at the same time.

Please call our office if you have any questions regarding the use of these medications.

# Wheat Ridge Veterinary Specialists

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