

Walker Veterinary Hospital

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BUSPIRONE USE IN CATS

Buspirone (Buspar®) is a human antidepressant drug. It has been shown to be effective in a significant number of cats with elimination disorders such as inappropriate urination and other behavior problems.

What is the success rate?

Its success rate is not 100% but, for the intended purpose, it has been shown to be more effective than many other drugs.

Are there any side-effects?

It has been used for several years in cats, and no side-effects have been noted.

How is it dosed?

The following outline should be followed. If the sequence is not clear, please call for further instructions.

1. Give one (1) 5-mg tablet by mouth every twelve (12) hours for one (1) week

- If there is no response, give 7.5-mg (1 ½ tablets) every twelve (12) hours for one (1) week
- If there is still no response, discontinue buspirone.
- If there is a good response, decrease the dose to 5 mg every twelve hours for one week.
- If there is good response, give 5-mg every twelve (12) hours for eight (8) weeks.

2. If a relapse occurs after successful therapy, resume buspirone at a dose of 5 to 7.5-mg every twelve (12) hours and continue for six to twelve months.



*This client information sheet is based on material written by Ernest Ward, DVM
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