

# Buprenorphine

Partial Mu receptor agonist opioid analgesic.

## Beneficial qualities:

- Minimal organ toxicity
- Long duration of effect
- Less histamine release than morphine
- Unlikely to induce dysphoria in cats
- Unlikely to induce hyperthermia in cats
- Does not induce vomiting
- Less respiratory depression than mu opioids
- Reliably absorbed from oral mucous membranes of cats
- Reduces inhalant anesthetic dose requirements

## Undesirable characteristics:

- Respiratory depression (mild)
- Analgesic action suitable for control of mild to moderate pain only
- Relatively slow onset 10 to 15 minutes)
- Abnormal behaviour after repeat dosing for 3-4 days when treating acute pain in cats

## Indications:

- Parenteral and oral analgesia for control of mild to moderate pain in dogs and cats
- Pre-anesthetic sedation either alone or in combination with acepromazine, medetomidine or midazolam in dogs and cats
- Epidural analgesia for hind limb, caudal body or abdomen

## Absolute contraindications:

- Previous allergic reaction to opioids

## Relative contraindications:

- When moderate to severe pain is present or anticipated

## Dose:

**Canine dose:** 0.005 to 0.01 mg/kg IV every 8 hours  
0.01 to 0.03 mg/kg IM or PO every 8 hours

**Feline dose:** 0.005 to 0.01 mg/kg IV every 8 hours  
.01 to 0.03 mg/kg IM, or PO every 8 hours

