

TRANSDERMAL PAIN CONTROL PATCHES

Pets perceive pain following trauma or painful procedures just as humans do. In the past, pain control in pets was often ignored, due to ignorance and/or a lack of good pain control medications for animals (especially cats.) Fortunately, we now have a number of good options for providing pets with pain control. Transdermal patches now allow us to administer continuous pain control without having to give an injection or even a pill.

Transdermal fentanyl patches are adhered with adhesive to a shaved area of skin and slowly release the pain medication through the skin over a period of several days. Depending on the size of the patient and the strength of the patch used, the patch will provide pain control for 2 to 7 days. In addition to pain relief, fentanyl produces feelings of euphoria (feelings of well being and elation.)

While generally considered safe in small animals, fentanyl can cause depression, decreased heart rate, and decreased respiration. Do not allow your pet to chew or lick at the patch, as this may lead to an overdose. If your pet seems overly sedate or show signs of difficulty breathing while the patch is on, please call the clinic immediately. Please return to the clinic to have the patch removed. If the patch is accidentally removed at home, wear gloves when handling and dispose of the patch by flushing it down the toilet. Do not allow children to handle the patch.