



## Your Pet has been prescribed an Anti-Anxiety Medication

### What you should know!

As part of our commitment to Fear Free medicine, your veterinary team has prescribed an anti-anxiety medication to help make your pet more comfortable with their veterinary visits.

#### ***Why was this medication prescribed?***

- To make your pet more comfortable about his/her visit to the vet
- To decrease your pet's fear of specific procedures such as vaccines or blood draws

#### ***Is this medication a sedative?***

This medication was NOT prescribed to sedate your pet. While some sedation can be a normal side effect, the primary function is to decrease your dog's fear and anxiety so he/she can have a pleasant, Fear Free experience.

#### ***What should I expect?***

There are many types of anti-anxiety medications and a wide variety of doses. Individual animals will respond differently to medications. As a result, we can see a range of normal responses from our pets. Once your pet takes this medication, in addition to a decrease in anxiety you may see:

- Drowsiness
- Dilated pupils and elevated third eyelids
- Slow movements, reluctance to move around, wanting to nap
- Slight instability walking, particularly up or down stairs

Although uncommon, occasionally pets may be more sensitive to these medications, leading to some more noticeable side effects such as:

- Substantial drowsiness that may last for several hours
- Mild urinary incontinence (leaking or accidents)
- Hyperactivity, pacing, whining or agitation

If present, do not be alarmed! Any side effects should resolve over the course of the day and these medications are extremely safe and used frequently. Please don't hesitate to call and let us know if you have **any** questions or concerns about your pet's response.

#### ***What if it doesn't work?***

Due to the individual responses and the variety of medications and doses, we don't always get the response we are looking for the first time. In these situations, your veterinary team will discuss with you the next. We will create a plan that works for your pet's unique needs!

This handout is part of our continued commitment to practicing Fear Free veterinary medicine! Want to know more? Ask a team member about Fear Free

