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Fentanyl Transdermal Patch Instructions

What is a fentanyl transdermal patch?

The fentanyl patch sticks to the pet's skin and slowly releases a constant amount of pain medication that is absorbed into the bloodstream, providing several days of pain relief.

It is very important that you do not allow your pet to lick or chew at the fentanyl patch site or the bandage that covers it, while the patch is on and for 48 hours after its removal.

When should I remove the patch?

The patch is generally removed five days after it was applied. The date for removal should be on the patch or on your discharge instructions.

How do I remove the patch?

Carefully cut away or unwrap the bandage that covers it and pull the patch off like a bandaid. Fold the patch in half, place in coffee grounds, used cat litter or other unfriendly substance, secure in a plastic bag and place in the trash. Do not attempt to clean the patch site for 48 hours after removal. Do not allow your pet to lick at the site.

What normal side effects of fentanyl might occur in some pets?

- Increased whining
- Increased panting
- Slight decrease in appetite
- Some episodes of vomiting/regurgitation
- Constipation

When should I be concerned about changes in my pet's behavior?

- If your pet is disoriented or stumbling while still wearing the patch, remove the patch (following the instructions above) and call our office during business hours, or call your local veterinary emergency clinic.
- If your pet has severely decreased or no appetite for more than two days, please call our office during regular business hours.
- Upon removal of the patch, some animals may experience a transient reaction, including panting, whining, weakness or vomiting. If you are concerned, or if these symptoms do not subside within one hour, please call our office or your local veterinary emergency clinic.

CAUTION: Keep the patch away from other pets and children, as the patch can be harmful or fatal if chewed, swallowed or handled. If this occurs, seek medical attention immediately.