

# Acepromazine Maleate (PromAce®)

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## SUMMARY:

- 1) Acepromazine is a sedative/tranquilizer.
- 2) There is a wide range of tolerance in pets. This means we may need to adjust your pet's dose over time.
- 3) You may give less than the instructions on the label if you feel your pet is overly sedated. Do not give more than the amount on the label without first speaking with a veterinarian.

## EXPLANATION:

Acepromazine is a medication that is used to sedate pets. It is most often used in situations like sedating pets for travel or for resting pets after an injury. It is not an anxiety medication and is not effective in treating anxiety conditions like separation anxiety or phobias.

## MONITORING:

Acepromazine is usually used for short-term care (not longer than a few weeks). Your pet may acclimate to the medication over time and may therefore require more medication. Please contact your veterinarian to discuss any dose changes with this medication.

## SIDE EFFECTS:

- 1) The most common side effect of this medication is sedation. In some patients who are less tolerant or when combined with other medications, this sedation may be excessive. Excessively sedated patients may seem dizzy or have trouble walking. Most patients will recover on their own if given sufficient time, however if you are concerned please seek veterinary advice.
- 2) When given in high doses this medication can cause low blood pressure and a slow heart rate. This is very rare on standard oral doses of this medication. Seek urgent advice if concerned.
- 3) Historically there was concern that the use of this medication might cause seizures. Several studies have shown Acepromazine does NOT increase the risk of seizure, which fits with Dr. Journey's personal experience. At this point Dr. Journey believes it is safe to use acepromazine in patients with seizures.
- 4) Dysphoria is abnormal activity or vocalizations that can occur with sedatives, especially when they are combined with pain medications. Think of it as your pet acting like a "rowdy drunk". They often make frantic vocalizations (whining, crying) and seem upset. It can be easily confused with pain. Animals who are dysphoric often need to be placed in a calm, quiet place so they can let their body process the medications. Animals who are dysphoric often need lower doses, different combinations or sometimes a different medication altogether. If you are concerned or wish to discuss changes to your pet's medication, please contact your veterinarian for advice.

## SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- 1) There are reports of fainting and heart arrhythmias with the use of this drug in Boxers, and it should be used with caution in this breed.



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