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Car motion sickness and nausea controlling.

Many dogs will experience car motion (traveling sickness) on short or long trips because they are unable to adapt themselves to the shifting & turning - movements and varying speeds of a car / pickup truck while being transported.

Even a smooth ride on a fairly calm trip can and will upset the delicate digestive system of a dog.

Motion sickness is caused by the over-stimulation of a dog's inner ear, resulting in a miserable traveling experience for a dog.

Stress can also make a dog carsick if it associates the car ride with a previous unpleasant memory – like going to the vet and getting vaccinations or some other unwelcome treatment or bad show experience on the other side.

If a dog is frightened by noisy vehicles – garbage trucks, etc., it can experience stress whenever it's in transport and near the source of these kinds of passing noises.

Separation anxiety also can occur as a result of being removed from familiar surroundings and can trigger a bout of motion sickness.

When a dog vomits or drools – even start with a runny stomach - while being transported, the most obvious reason is car motion sickness.

A scared dog might resist getting into the vehicle or fight against being loaded into the traveling crate in the first place.

Being transported may also pant more rapidly than usual, even pace back and forth in the sky crate.

Desensitizing your dog to car motion rides does not have to be a difficult process.

A good first step is to make the car ride more inviting and fun by getting the dog use to the car itself.

Load your dog into your parked vehicles and feed it while the vehicle stays parked without the engine running.

This will help your dog associate the car with something enjoyable.

After your dog becomes accustomed to the car and appears to be looking forward to going for a ride, you can start the car while your dog is eating inside it, but don't drive anywhere.

Just stay parked wherever you are.

Once your dog feels comfortable eating in the car and appears to have no problem with the engine running the second step will be taking your dog for a short ride around the block - for this planned you should not feed your dog before the car ride because if the dog get motion sickness will vomit the food out.

For traveling with your dog be sure to lower your car windows (if the dog is loaded inside the car) to equalize the air pressure and allow your dog to breathe fresh air.

Keep your car cooled down if the temperature or humidity is high, as heat can increase the chances of your dog feeling nauseous.

You may also want to bring along one or two of your dog's favourite toys or treats and some toilet paper or rag to wipe off the drooling if needed.

The best way to prepare your dog for a long trip by is to not to feed or drink water just before setting out - skip the meal.

If a dog begins exhibiting signs of car sickness on the trip, make a

stop and take it on a short walk.

A little longer walk may be necessary if your dog seems unusually stressed by the ride.

Spending more time walking will give your dog an opportunity to release some, if not all, of its stress.

Luckily, the majority of dogs will outgrow motion sickness, although some dogs will always have a tougher time adjusting.

If this is the case with your dog give some prescribed motion sickness medicine from your vet before the actual trip.

Dogs with motion sickness do not make for a pleasant and carefree trip or vacation.

Nauseal-controlling.

Product "Cerenia"

Available in

"Tablets" -16 mg, 24 mg, 60 mg, & 160 mg and as "Injectable"

Background.

While strong nausea-controlling drugs in injectable form have been available for dogs for some time, oral medications have been lacking.

Until recently, efforts were largely confined to the oral use of [metoclopramide](#) (which is rather short acting) and [meclizine](#) (which is not approved for use in dogs).

In 2008, Pfizer released **maropitant citrate**, a strong anti-nauseal medication for dogs that could be given once a day.

Vomiting occurs when the vomit center of the brain stem is stimulated.

It may be stimulated a number of ways:

via the brain (as in motion sickness or through emotional input), via the chemoreceptor trigger zone in the brain stem (as when nauseating toxins are detected in the bloodstream), directly (as in dietary indiscretion), or a combination of any of the above.

An important molecular step in initiating vomiting, involves the

binding of a material called "substance P" to a structure called the "NK-1 receptor."

This lock and key binding occurs in both the vomit centre and in the chemoreceptor trigger zone.

Maropitant citrate mimics the structure of substance P and binds the NK-1 receptors so that they cannot bind substance P thus making stimulation of the vomit center extremely difficult.

How this medicine is used.

Maropitant is used once a day in dogs to control nausea.

It can be given as a shot or as a tablet.

The dose is higher for motion sickness versus for treatment of disease-related nausea.

For the former, maropitant can be given two days in a row and for the latter for 5 days in a row.

Side effects.

Side effects are uncommon with the use of this medication but the most commonly noted side effects were:

drooling, drowsiness, diarrhoea, and appetite loss.

Interaction with other drugs.

The risk of experiencing the above maropitant side effects is increased when maropitant is combined with other drugs that are highly blood protein bound in the circulation.

Common drugs that meet this criterion are:

[Phenobarbital](#), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and thyroid hormone supplements.

Concerns and cautions.

Note that the dosage recommended for a one time control of motion sickness is much higher than that for longer term nausea relief (as in the treatment of a disease).

Maropitant has not been tested for safety in puppies under 16 weeks of age.

Maropitant is for use in 5 day courses.

After 5 days, the dog should come off maropitant for the 6th day but can start a new 5 day course on the 7th day.

For motion sickness, maropitant can be given two days in a row.

Do not give this medication wrapped in a treat that may upset your dog's stomach.

Minimize fatty treats as they work against the effectiveness of the medication.

Maropitant may not be appropriate for dogs with liver disease.

Maropitant has not been evaluated in pregnant or nursing dogs.

Some feline studies have been performed and the drug has been used by many in the cat without adverse effect.

For more information, visit: www.cerenia.com