



CATS

FEAR FREE MEDS

GABAPENTIN BEFORE VISITS

Why should I consider Fear Free medication for my cat?

Every effort is made to keep each encounter with all pets a positive and fun experience! However, some pets may feel stressed and anxious despite our best efforts. **Gabapentin** is a common Fear Free medication dispensed for cats. It has predictable **sedative and calming effects**. It makes it easier for us to provide high quality medical care.

How and when do I give this medication?

Gabapentin is administered **orally, 2 hours prior** to putting your cat in their carrier. It comes as a capsule that can be opened. The powder inside can be mixed with a small amount of something tasty (Churu, wet food, etc.). It also comes as a liquid that can be squirted into the mouth.

What should I expect after giving my cat gabapentin?

Some cats may seem like they aren't sedated at all, just less stressed than they would be without the medication! Other cats may seem quiet and sedate on this medication, and sometimes even a little bit wobbly! **That's okay - these are expected effects!**

What are the side effects?

Gabapentin is generally very well tolerated, but **side effects can include sedation, wobbly gait, and salivation**. Your cat should be back to normal by the next day. We use gabapentin even in senior patients with underlying illnesses, at lowered doses.



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ADMINISTRATION TIPS

Help! I don't think I can get this medication into my cat!

We have video tutorials on our website and on our social media accounts - we suggest checking them out! Here are some other tips you may find helpful.

Capsules

- Most people find it easiest to open the capsule, and mix the powder with a small amount of very tasty food.
- **Churu, vanilla yogurt, ice cream, wet food, tuna juice** - you can try whatever your cat finds irresistible! (Make sure it doesn't contain xylitol).
- Do not mix it in a large volume of food - if your cat only eats a small amount, the rest will go to waste!
- This method is **much easier if your cat is already hungry** - don't feed them their full breakfast before trying this.
- It may also be easier if they **don't** see you mixing the powder into their food!

Liquid

While most people prefer the above method, gabapentin also comes as a liquid. The liquid is harder to conceal in their food, and is best squirted directly into the mouth. Some cats may salivate a little afterwards.