



SF SPCA Behavior Specialty Service  
**Informed Consent for Behavior – Modifying Drug Use**

Medications can be an important part of your pet’s treatment plan. They can help lower your pet’s anxiety level so that the behavior modification plan can be more effective. Medications are not a cure for the problem, nor should medications be used without concurrent behavior modification. Please use only as directed.

Keep in mind that all of the medications we use are **human** grade, therefore for pets, they are being used on an **“extra label”** basis. This means that the medication is not approved for use in dogs or cats. However, we have 10-40 years’ experience prescribing these types of medications and consider them safe. In most cases we recommend blood testing to be performed prior to beginning long term medication use. The medications we prescribe are processed by the liver and kidneys and if there are any pre-existing conditions of these organs, the medication may not be as effective as expected.

Every pet is unique and effects of the medication will vary, please be present the first few times you give the medication to your pet to monitor for any adverse reactions. It is recommended to keep a log book on the dose and effect on your pet until your pet is stabilized.

**The potential side effects and adverse effects of the medication could include one or more of the following:** changes in appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, sedation, tremors, ataxia, paradoxical excitement and seizures. If you see any of these, **DISCONTINUE** use of the medication and contact your veterinarian during regular business hours or the local emergency clinic if after hours.

**Realistic expectations**

The medications may not alter the course of the behavioral problem and your pet may continue with the problem behavior with risk of self-injury, injuring other animals or people. Often times the medication or dosages need to be reviewed and adjusted several times during the treatment course to find the best effect for your pet and your situation.

With most anti-anxiety medications we will start out with a low dose and gradually increase it to establish the dose that is the best for your pet or the full appropriate treatment dose. This is in order to avoid negative effects. With most long term medications it can take up to **6-8 weeks to see the full benefit**. Please contact us during business hours if you have any questions or concerns.

**Refills:** please request a refill at least 7 days before you run out.

**This consent form serves as notice to you of the responsibilities involved with the use of these medications.**

**I have read, understand and take responsibility for the use of the medications for my pet.** I hereby give my informed consent to the administration of this drug to my animal. I accept full responsibility, legal and financial, for all actions that may occur from the use of this drug.

Client name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_