



# Franimal's Pharmaceutical Recommendations for Optimal Ultrasound Studies

Disclaimer: These protocols are for reference only, and the primary veterinarian should determine the safest protocol for each patient. Consider both the emotional and physical well-being of the patient when formulating a plan.

## Pre-Visit Pharmaceuticals:

Administer the night before and 1-2 hours prior to ultrasound.

### 1. Gabapentin

- Action:
  - Neuropathic pain/analgesia
  - Calming/sedation at higher doses
  - Decreased anxiety
- Dosage:
  - Canine: 10-40 mg/kg/dose PO
  - Feline: 10-20 mg/kg/dose or 50-100 mg/CAT (NOT /kg)
- Notes:
  - May intensify sedation from other drugs
  - Combines well with other drugs
  - For maximum sedation, give a loading dose the night before

### 2. Trazodone

- Action:
  - Anxiolytic, sedation
- Dosage:
  - Canine: 3-10 mg/kg/dose PO (not to exceed 300mg)
  - Feline: 50 mg/CAT (NOT /kg); administer 1-2 hours before desired effect
- Notes:
  - Sleepiness, paradoxical excitation
  - Variable mild GI effects
  - Use caution when combining with other drugs that may increase serotonin

## **Franimal's Favorite Feline In-Hospital Pharmaceuticals:**

**1. Midazolam (0.2mg/kg IV) PLUS Butorphanol (0.2-0.4mg/kg IV)**

**2. Alfaxalone (1-2mg/kg IV) PLUS Butorphanol (0.2mg/kg IV)**

**3. Avoid in Cats with Preexisting or Suspected Cardiac Disease or Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:**

- a. Butorphanol (0.2-0.4mg/kg) PLUS dexmedetomidine IM or IV
- b. Ketamine (2-4mg/kg IV) PLUS diazepam (0.2-0.3mg/kg IV) OR midazolam (0.3mg/kg IV)
- c. "Kitty Magic": 0.1 OR 0.2ml ketamine + 0.1 OR 0.2ml dexmedetomidine + 0.1 OR 0.2ml buprenorphine IM

## **Franimal's Favorite Canine In-Hospital Pharmaceuticals:**

**1. Butorphanol (0.2-0.4mg/kg IV) PLUS Diazepam (0.3mg/kg IV) OR Midazolam (0.15mg/kg IV)**

**2. Avoid in Dogs with Preexisting or Suspected Cardiac Disease:**

- a. Butorphanol (0.2-0.4mg/kg) PLUS dexmedetomidine IM or IV

### **Resources:**

- Lindquist, E. Frank, J. Molder, P. Lobetti, R. (2015). *The Curbside Guide: Diagnosis & Treatment of Common Sonographically Detected Disease: Canine & Feline*. SonoPath, LLC.
- [Fear Free Pre-Visit Pharmaceuticals PDF resource.](#)